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DEC 407

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Redonda Red Hair \$60

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THE PURPS

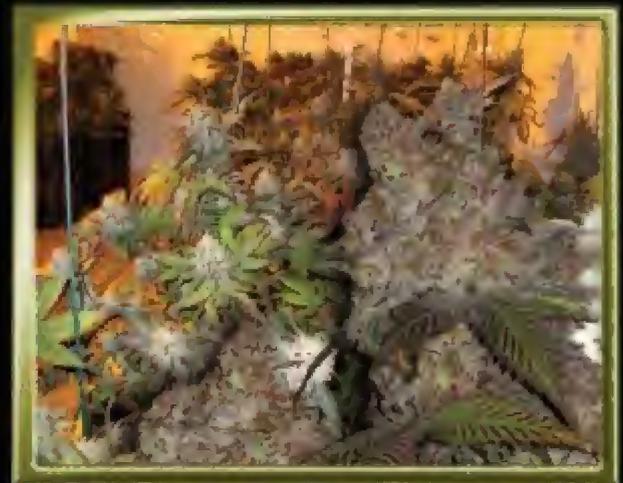
The latest in our line of Cannabis Cup award winners!

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INTRODUCING:

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HT ARCHIVE

HASTA LA VISTA, JORGE!

Our last issue of 2009—one of the most amazing years in modern marijuana history—brings with it a changing of the ganja guard when it comes to HIGH TIMES' always-comprehensive cultivation coverage.

Jorge Cervantes, legendary author of *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture*—better known as the “Grower’s Bible”—ends his run of answering your herb-related questions this month by passing the torch to Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko, who debuts a new column on page 118 called “Dear Danko” that we’re certain will keep you (and your plants) happy and healthy for many bud-laden years to come.

As the director of Jorge’s *Ultimate Grow* series of DVDs, I was privileged to witness firsthand his dedication to both cannabis growers and their favorite plant on many memorable occasions. But as the first installment of “Dear Danko” notes, Danny is Jorge’s “handpicked choice” and will bring a fresh perspective and advice to your ganja-gardening questions. In the meantime, we look forward to more amazing feature stories from Jorge in the near future!

Also in this issue, don’t miss my interview with marijuana activist Mason Tvert, co-founder of Safer Alternatives for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER), who explains how comparing pot to alcohol will lead straight to legalization. We also roll out our annual list of the Top 10 pot strains of the year, a global harvest report that takes you around the world in stony style, a look at the history of one of Amsterdam’s top coffeeshops, a session with jamband legends the Disco Biscuits, and a tour of California’s leading medical-marijuana dispensaries.

And, oh yeah, a sneak preview of the new movie from my good buds, the Trailer Park Boys. If you’ve haven’t seen their show, you’re missing the best thing to come out of Canada since Island Sweet Skunk!

Happy toking,

David Bienenstock
Senior Editor

HIGH TIMES

35 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

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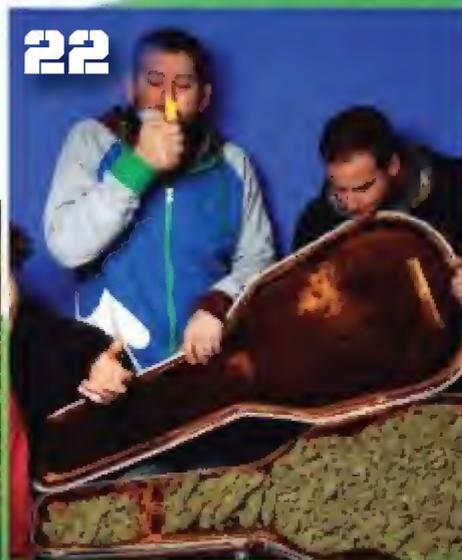


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HIGH TIMES

35 YEARS AND STILL GROWING



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FEATURES

36 SIEGE ON SOCAL

by Dan Skye

Despite the passage of Prop. 215 thirteen years ago, California's medical-marijuana community must still battle daily for its rights. Recent events in Los Angeles demonstrate that the Obama administration has already broken its campaign promises.

46 2009 GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

Our '09 Global Harvest Report chronicles the triumphs and tribulations of this year's grow season—worldwide! Our correspondents check in from around the planet to report on the various conditions, yields and strains as harvest season approaches and the markets become flooded with exotic buds from countries far and wide. Here's your guide to what you'll be smoking for the next six months—and what you can expect if you're traveling abroad anytime soon!

64 TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2009

Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko reveals the results of our rigorous year-round testing, which narrowed down the list of the best marijuana varieties in the world to 10 incredible strains. Find out all about the potency, flavor and flowering times of these beautiful plants.

72 HIGH TIMES ON EASTER ISLAND

By Chris Simunek

Our intrepid reporter journeys to the most isolated piece of real estate on Earth to learn the secrets of survival in the land of the stone giants. Along the way, he finds some bud, too.

84 SAFETY MEETING

In his new book, *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?*, SAFER co-founder Mason Tvert argues that pot should be legal because it's better for you than booze.

Check out our exclusive interview with this highly successful activist, who's already helped decriminalize herb in Denver—plus an exclusive excerpt from *Marijuana Is Safer*.

DEPARTMENTS

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12 HIGHWITNESS NEWS/BUZZ

EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Sarah Diesel; Seattle Hempfest; *Cannabis Planet*; Pot & worship; Scrooge's Xmas; Hash champ; Prohibition's end; Capitol Hemp; Chief Greenbud; Showbuzz; Med-pot states update; World MJ Film Festival; A success story known as Barney's; Disco Biscuits; Black Math Horseman; Trailer Park Boys; Reviews; Band of the Month; Miss HIGH TIMES; Almost Infamous; Brain Damage Control.

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81 GROWORLD

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Dr. Mitch; Tissue culture & cannabis; Gear/Hot Products; War Stories; Dear Danko; Tip of the Month; Grow Quiz; December calendar.

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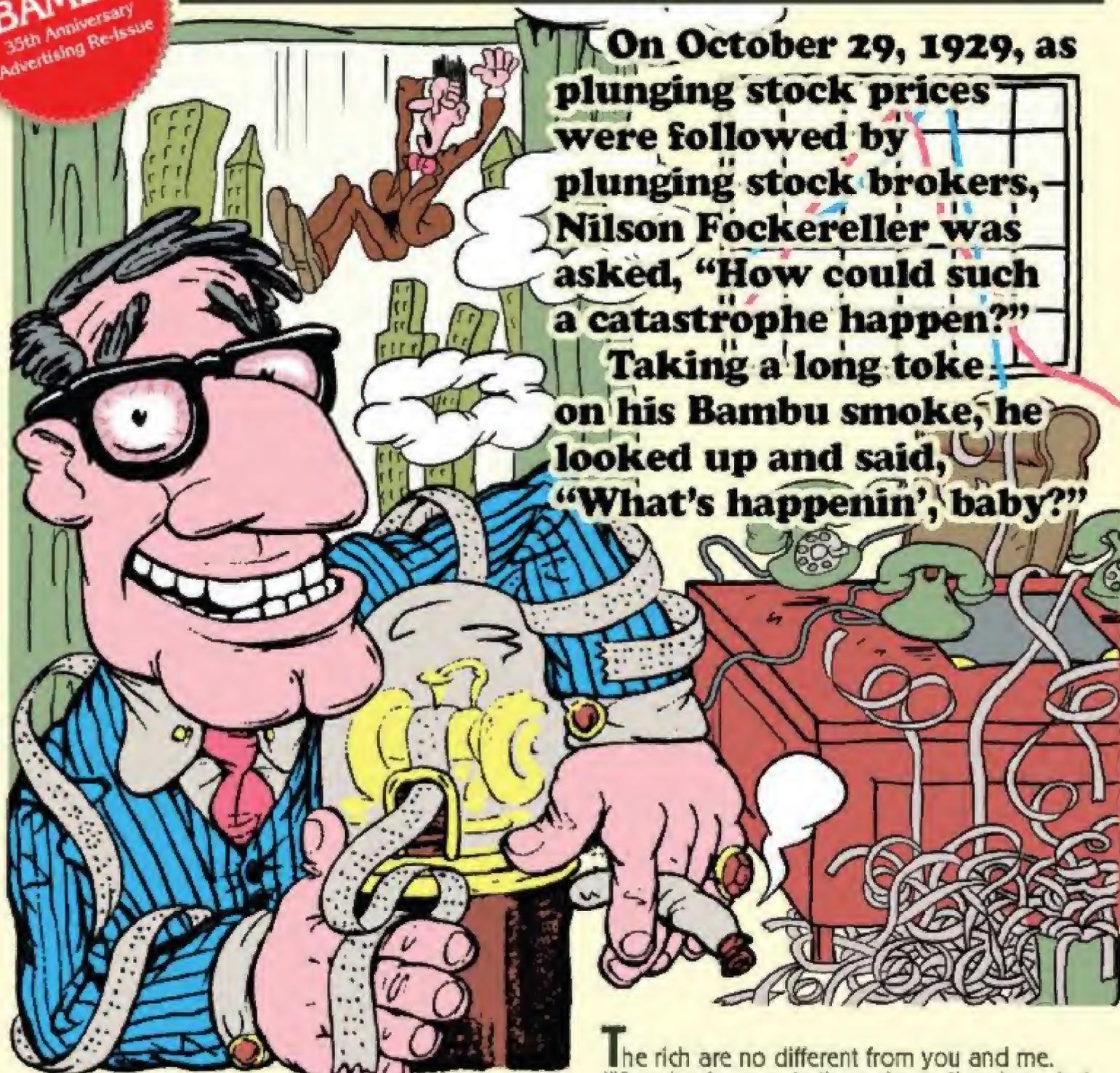
COVER: SUBCOOL STRAIN: SPACE BOMB

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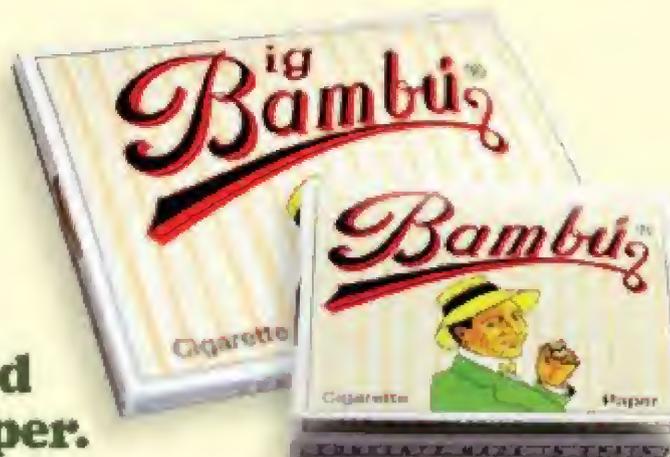
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FEEDBACK

BROWNIE DEBACLE

How's it going? I must say, I'm a big fan of the magazine ... it's amazing! My real question—well, a question that my friends and I have been thinking about for a couple of weeks—is whether there is any law against edible weed (i.e., brownies, chocolate bars or even butter)? I know that's a little vague, but say I was driving down the road with bud brownies or bud butter and got pulled over—does the law treat it the same as weed itself? And how would they even know? I ask this because I've been on a baking tangent, and I am now realizing how easy it is to make the butter and cook with it.

Danny

Unfortunately, pot food is just as illegal as pot itself. Take care when bringing edibles along on a road trip: Drug dogs are known to love bud brownies almost as much as potheads do.

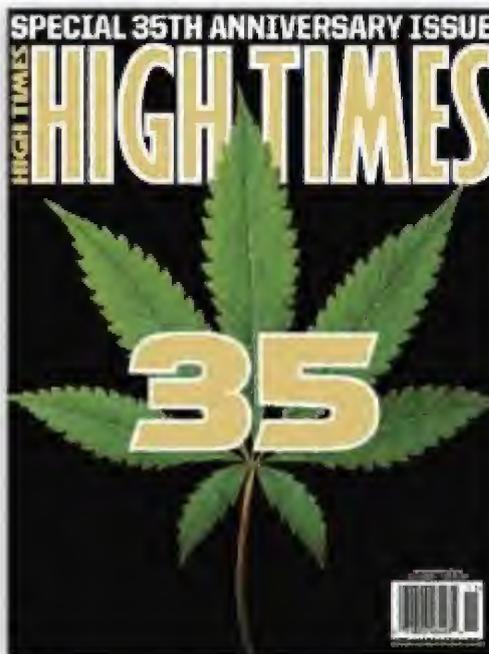
STRAIN SYNTAX

I have read the last two issues of your magazine and enjoyed them immensely. I am curious about the use of the word "Afghani"—I have spent a large amount of time in that region, and the word "afghani" is their term for the currency. Something associated with that country would be described as "Afghan" (as in "Afghan jewelry"), just like the people of Afghanistan are "Afghans," not "Afghanis." Is the "Afghani" usage in your magazine common slang that gets perpetuated, or should your magazine's usage be corrected?

Todd

Actually, that's a pretty interesting subject. The English word "Afghani" (meaning "of or pertaining to the Afghan people") has been around since the days of the British Empire, and was taken from an almost identical word in Pashto, the language of the Afghan people—but the word "Afghan," believe it or not, comes from a much earlier *Persian* term for the Pashtun, who comprise the ethnic majority in the country. But you are correct that the usage these days overwhelmingly favors "Afghan" (either as a noun or adjective) when referring to the people of Afghanistan, and "afghani" (with a lower-case "a") only when referring to the currency.

However, there's good reason to believe that, in the cannabis community, the name "Afghani" actually stems from the term "Afghanica," which was used to pay tribute to the fact that the landrace strain from the northern regions of Afghanistan was a pure (100 percent) *indica*. While the term "Afghanica" is rarely heard today, you can still find it in use



among old-school heads or on places like SensiSeeds.com. All of which goes to show that, as Shakespeare put it, "a rose/By any other name would smell as sweet."

SEND SEEDS SOUTH

I've noticed when ordering seeds that a lot of sites do not list whether they ship to the US. I've found a few that do, but only after a lot of searching. I think it would be a great help if there was a place for people to go that had a list of all the seed companies that ship to the US. Maybe there is such a link, but I have yet to find it. Instead, I've been going to each seed bank one by one to try and find out this info. I've read your list of the top seed banks and companies, but how about a list of those that ship to the US?

Billy

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GROUNDBREAKING ART

This letter is in response and rebuttal to a letter appearing in the August 2009 issue, "Glass Is Not Art," in which D.K., an HT reader, wrote: "Smokers don't need that crap and have better things to do with their money than pay for overpriced, breakable glass." May I respond to those comments? First off, are you *crazy!*? I say articles on good glass in HT should be mandatory! I am hoping this letter will inspire the HT staff to make the right choice and run more detailed articles with worthy pictures on great glass and the artists who create it. I imagine the person who wrote that letter has probably been smoking some nasty Mex out of their plastic bong a little too long and just can't lay her to rest.

Gabe

OVERGROW THE GOVERNMENT

Remember Johnny Appleseed from colonial times? How about Johnny Potseed? Spread those seeds! Any extra seeds should be thrown out of car windows by all of us on every piece of land available until it grows like kudzu!

Jerry

ERRATA

In the September '09 HT, HID Hut had their contact info listed incorrectly in the S.T.A.S.H. Awards article. Their correct number is 866-678-8565.

Send your letters to: Feedback c/o HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Email: heditor@hightimes.com. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.



A grand slam of LA Confidential bubblehash.

CHAMPIONSHIP HASH

As we go to press, the Los Angeles Dodgers are a fairly safe bet to make the Major League Baseball playoffs. In fact, eight teams will be going to the playoffs—each team will play a best-of-five series, then the winners will play a best-of-seven series, and the two teams left standing will play *another* best-of-seven in the World Series.

But, really, who gives a shit? This 306-gram pile of LA Confidential bubble hash has already won MVP in our favorite Fall Classic: harvest season.



OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Boob-tube bud lovers have just found nirvana: There's a new 30-minute weekly television program called *Cannabis Planet*, which premiered in July on KDOC-TV in Los Angeles. Focusing on the miracle of marijuana, *Cannabis Planet* covers the industrial, agricultural and medicinal benefits of the plant. It also offers plenty of current news, profiles of medical-marijuana collectives, cannabis cooking, celebrity interviews, music and entertainment, plus vital cultivation tips.

"We are very excited to be bringing the latest in cannabis news and information into millions of living rooms," says Brad Lane, *Cannabis Planet's* creator and executive producer. "The show will also be available on the Internet, but we think that the information is important enough to be seen on television. Cannabis is a wonderful natural resource that we should be utilizing as a people and a nation." *Consult your local listings for channel info and airtime; available online at cannabisplanet.tv.*

SWEET SARAH DIESEL

She's a 29-year-old Southern California native living in Hollywood. Not all that unusual, except Sarah Diesel looks like she just stepped out of the '50s. She regularly dresses in that decade's costumes, appearing in everything from poodle shirts to nightclub cigarette girl garb.: "I love the innocence that the '50s had," she says. "The men were chivalrous and the women were ladies."

Sarah has been bringing her singular style to the California cannabis scene since 2005. A medical user for nearly six years, she moved to Los Angeles jobless, but soon found work as a bud-tender at a med-pot dispensary, overseeing 100 strains. As her activism increased, she began working with GLACA (the Greater Los Angeles Caregivers Alliance), a nonprofit association of med-pot collectives and co-ops who have voluntarily organized and self-regulated around a shared desire to provide safe access to patients. Last year, Sarah was hired as a facilitator and budtending professor at Oaksterdam University's Los Angeles campus. She is also a featured co-host on the new TV show *Cannabis Planet*.

We heartily applaud her "2010 Pin-Ups for Patients Calendar," a '50s-themed offering that is artistic, educational and classy. "All of the models, the photographer, the graphic artist and the crew are patients," Sarah explains. "My motivation comes from my family and friends who are battling and have battled cancer—especially the one who didn't beat it. It's extremely unfortunate that I couldn't save this person's life with cannabis because of propaganda." *Visit sarahdiesel.com.*



A grand slam of LA Confidential bubblehash.

POT & WORSHIP

The Native American Church has been incorporated since 1918—a federally recognized entity whose members are able to ingest peyote, without fear of prosecution, during all-night ceremonies of prayer and song. Now, a church in Hawaii is seeking similar protection for its use of cannabis.

Michael Rex "Raging Bear" Mooney, a leader of the Oklevueha Native American Church, is suing the US government in order to protect the right of church members to consume, cultivate, possess and distribute cannabis free from federal penalty. Mooney's attorney, Michael A. Glenn, says that "the government is required [by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act] to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise their religion, including the use and possession of sacred substances, and the freedom to worship through ceremonies and rites."

The federal government currently prohibits the spiritual use of cannabis.



Can pot be used like peyote in the Native American Church?



The Seattle Hempfest, held this past August 15 and 16, once again lived up to its billing as the "World's Biggest Pot Rally." Attended by over 200,000, the Hempfest featured six stages, hundreds of vendor booths and a host of speakers from every part of the marijuana community. The two-day event is staged annually by a dedicated, all-volunteer crew who, over the years, have worked with Seattle police to create a successful, peaceful gathering. Hempfest organizer Vivian McPeak says, "The 2009 event was bigger than ever, and we feel very optimistic about the prospects of drug-law reform in the future!"

THE END IS NEAR!

No, the world isn't coming to an end, but the War on Drugs just may be.

That's the word from the Socionomics Institute, a think tank that examines social behavior as it relates to financial markets. In his study "The Coming Collapse of a Modern Prohibition," researcher Euan Wilson writes: "In the case of alcohol, the path from prohibition to decriminalization became littered with corruption and violence as the government waged a failed war on traffickers We predict a similar fate for the prohibition of marijuana, if not the entire War on Drugs."



According to Wilson, research shows that the buoyant, optimistic, "rising" social mood produced by a bull market results in the prohibition of substances such as alcohol and marijuana, while the negative, pessimistic "falling" mood produced by a bear market actually results in increased tolerance and relaxed regulation. As with the repeal of Prohibition in the '30s, Wilson's predictive model indicates that marijuana will likely be decriminalized after a major fall in the stock market. And much as the gang warfare of the Prohibition era (culminating in the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre) convinced the public that Prohibition was creating violent crime, Wilson's model also predicts that a ramped-up War on Drugs will lead to more drug-related murders in both Mexico and the US, outraging society in the process and further abetting the end of our modern Prohibition.

BAH, HUM-BUD!

You're a stoner and everyone wants to know what you want for Christmas. Be careful what you ask for: Every gift has its downside.

THE PERFECT STONER GIFT

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Expensive, handcrafted glass bong.

High-tech rig of grow lights.

The latest in hemp-clothing fashions.

A lifetime supply of rolling papers.

The Stoner's Cookbook Guide.

A marijuana-leaf tattoo.

Special super-duper deluxe odor spray for your dorm room.

A bag of high-quality seeds.

An ornate heavy-metal pipe decorated with skulls.

One of those "Pot-opoly" novelty board games.

A handy little "stash bag" that holds your weed, papers, pipe, etc.

A "Got Pot?" T-shirt.

Retro roach clip with dangling feathers.

A medical-marijuana card.

WHY IT'S ACTUALLY NOT

Great—now you'll be expected to reciprocate. Worse, the giver's birthday is in January.

Destroyed by New Year's. The obnoxious little mini-dog you gave your girlfriend smashes it when he tries to hump it.

Your power bill will now be equal to Yankee Stadium's.

Hemp clothes last forever. From this moment on, you're living in a time capsule.

A lifetime supply? For us, that would require converting a bedroom to store them.

A cookbook won't make you a great cook. Get ready to waste ounces of your stash.

Originality isn't your strong suit, is it?

Your hyper-allergic reaction puts you in a coma.

You, cultivate? The only time your thumb is green is when you eat guacamole burritos.

Your order of Alzheimer's will be ready shortly.

Friends drop in nightly to play. Say good-bye to your stash.

Sounds like a man-purse to us.

You're a walking invitation for narcs to pop you.

No need to tell us your age: You're over 60.

Ah, the joy of giving to yourself. Congratulations!

CAPITOL HEMP

Long ago, we realized that no one would be able to remain completely sane on the road to legalization, but Capitol Hemp, a hemp-products and tobacco-accessories boutique based in Washington, DC, is giving it a shot.

Despite a rich history of hemp farming in the US, the plant is still illegal in this country. However, retailers are not prohibited from selling hemp products. Naturally, being a hemp-products retailer in this situation requires monumental patience.

So while it may not be outright defiance, a hemp store in our nation's capital is something of an anomaly. Located in the Adams Morgan neighborhood, a slightly boho community of 40,000, Capitol Hemp makes no secret of its mission, with hemp fields gracing the signs at the store's entrance. Inside, the shelving and display counters have been constructed with 2,000 pounds of industrial-hemp fiber. Every type of hemp product under the sun is represented here: clothing, cosmetics, food, jewelry, paper and much more.

Maybe DC is actually giving hemp the A-OK—Capitol Hemp, which has been operating for nearly two years now, is thriving. "We're the first hemp store in Washington in 15 years," says co-owner Adam Eiding. "We want to showcase hemp's sustainability right in the federal government's backyard." Located at 1802 Adams Mill Road NW; visit capitolhemp.com.



Adam Eiding deals hemp products at Capitol Hemp.



The botany of desire

POT ON PBS

Public television will premiere *The Botany of Desire* in October, including a "plant's-eye" look at ganja growers. Michael Pollan, gardening editor of the *New York Times*, has recently dominated the best-seller lists with two books, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and *In Defense of Food*, both focused on America's dangerous and destructive reliance on "factory farming" and processed foods. Pollan was also heavily involved in the new documentary *Food Inc.*,

which offers an unblinking look at our modern food chain. But marijuana enthusiasts likely know him best for his first best-seller, *The Botany of Desire*, which tells the compelling life stories of four commonly domesticated plants: apples, potatoes, tulips and *Cannabis sativa*—all from the plants' point of view.

After making a research trip to the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam and meeting "the best gardeners of [his] generation," Pollan brilliantly explained the long and winding tale of how high-grade marijuana came into existence, and how we as growers have served the plant in kind. Check pbs.org for local listings.



Pot music icon Chief Greenbud stands tall amid wild hemp.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF!

Plenty of musicians strive to be the poet laureate of the pot world. Unfortunately, there's never been a breakthrough artist—until now!

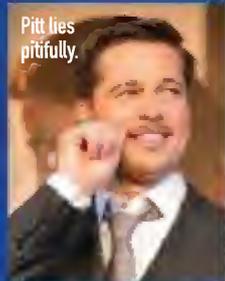
Chief Greenbud has arrived, and he's serenading the cannabis nation on a never-ending tour with hits like "I Just Want to Get High," "The Hit That Makes You Cough," "It's 4:20 Somewhere," "Why Can't We All Get a Bong?" and "I Like to Smoke Weed." Most of his songs are sneaky parodies of popular tunes: One of the best is "It's Only a Weed," his takeoff on "Hey There Delilah" by the Plain White T's; the Chief turns it into a plea to a police officer for mercy. He's played a wide variety of venues, from Jerry Garcia's Birthday Bash to the Viper Room in Los Angeles, and is a regular at harvest festivals nationwide. For his dedication to high harmony, the American Marijuana Music Awards honored Chief Greenbud in four categories last June: Best Male Artist, Best Legalization Song, Best Acoustic Song and Best Comedy Song. Chief Greenbud's CD's are available at chiefgreenbud.com.

THIS MONTH IN SHOWBUZZ

POT & PITT

In August, actor Brad Pitt told *Parade* that, in his younger days, "I liked to smoke a bit of grass and I became very sheltered. Then, I got bored. I was turning into a damn doughnut, really. So I moved as far away from that as I could."

Pitt lies pitifully.



But on the *Today* show, he said he's considering a run for mayor of New Orleans. His platform would include "taxation of marijuana." Later, on HBO's *Real Time*, host Bill Maher told Pitt that at a New Year's Eve party, Maher had witnessed him rolling "the most perfect" joint he'd ever seen. Pitt's response: "I'm an artist."

Leave it to film director Quentin Tarantino to clear things up. On Howard Stern's radio show, he revealed that when he pitched *Inglorious Basterds* to him, after the meeting Pitt "takes this brick of hash, whips out a knife like Jesse James, and cuts me off a big sliver."

Sounds like inglorious denial to us.



JIVE FROM JOVOVICH

Actress/model Milla Jovovich agreed to pose on our cover 15 years ago, but this is what she told *Maxim* magazine about the experience: "I was performing music at the time—and smoking pot—and the guys

from HIGH TIMES came to one of my shows. They were like, 'Hey, wanna be on the cover?' It was just one of those stupid things you do when you're young. I thought it was a big joke, but my poor mom was mortified. But it could have been a lot worse. When you look at the horror stories of young, successful kids, I'm glad I didn't end up dead."

Not quite, Milla. As we recall, it was you who asked to be on the cover and your publicist approved. Plus, you were thrilled with the final product. You also enthusiastically visited the HIGH TIMES office. Some "big joke." You didn't end up dead, but you are terminally hypocritical.

MEDICINE FOR SWAYZE

A source close to Patrick Swayze told the *National Enquirer* that medical marijuana is improving the actor's health. Swayze, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for pancreatic cancer, says that smoking pot has enabled him to gain weight because it has helped reduce his nausea, allowing him to "keep his food down."

Patrick uses pot.



Slightly

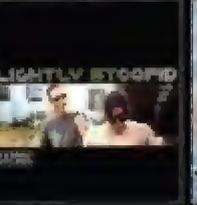
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HIGH CLASS FILMS

The World Marijuana Film Festival 2009. By Steven Hager



Reefer was on every reel at the WMFF.

The Fourth Annual HIGH TIMES World Marijuana Film Festival (WMFF) was hosted by Jack Herer and held in Marina Del Rey, CA, on June 26, 2009. The festival celebrates independent

films involving cannabis and awards the prestigious Golden Leaf to the best indie film of the year. The first two festivals were held in Ibiza, Spain, and the third one in Northern California. This year the WMFF moved again, this time to Los Angeles, resulting in our highest attendance so far. The audience was equally divided between cannabis enthusiasts and film-industry professionals.

Unfortunately, there were fewer entries this year—three in all—reflecting the state of the economy as filmmaking across the board downsizes to weather the recession. The screenings were held at the Marina Del Rey Hotel.

THE FILMS

The Union, directed by Brett Harvey and distributed by Peace Arch Entertainment Group, is an investigation into the booming marijuana-cultivation scene in British Columbia, now worth an estimated \$7 billion a year. The film follows Adam Scorgie as he visits grow ops and talks to police and academic ex-

perts about the explosive growth of the marijuana industry in Canada. The film is a great introduction to the politics of pot.

High Society: A Pot Boiler, directed by Kristian

Davies and distributed by Indie Rights, is a comedy that takes place over the course of one evening. The main character is a stoner who relentlessly runs down everyone and everything with his caustic wit. When two girls unexpectedly show up at his house, the stoner gleefully torments them with a barrage of antisocial behavior.

Cash Crop, directed by Adam Ross and distributed by Sierra Films, is a documentary about the people who grow and distribute marijuana in Northern California's Emerald Triangle. California on its own ranks as the sixth-largest economy in the world, and for the past few years the state's economy has been dominated by its largest cash crop: marijuana. Ross spent two years filming underground to protect the identity of his subjects.

GOLDEN LEAF WINNER

After all the films were screened, an impromptu vote made it clear that *Cash Crop* was the favorite of just about everyone in attendance. Although *The Union* was packed with solid information and *High Society* had some wickedly funny moments, *Cash Crop* sustained audience attention with its panoramic cinematography, well-produced original soundtrack and effective use of split-screen techniques. And it certainly helped that Eddy Lepp, prominently featured in the film, was also one of the audience members. Ross did an effective job introducing his film at the festival: "This is not like other documentaries on marijuana," he said. "I'm not trying to preach to the choir. If you are well medicated, just sit back and enjoy the ride." ✦

STATE OF THE STASH

By the end of 2010, 40 percent of America's states may have legalized medical marijuana.

Illinois has sent mixed signals on medical marijuana in recent months. A bill legalizing cannabis for medicinal use passed in the State Senate in May by a 30-28 vote and cleared a House committee. A vote in the House is expected before the end of 2009.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty (R) vetoed a med-pot bill in May after it passed the House and Senate. Observers believe there aren't enough votes to override the veto.

New Jersey's Senate passed the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act in February by a 22-16 vote. An identical bill must pass the Assembly before it becomes state law. While Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts (D-Camden) has reservations about the bill, Governor Jon Corzine (D) promised that he'll sign it.

New York had a topsy-turvy 2009. For the first time ever, identical medical-marijuana bills were introduced in the State Assembly and Senate. But the Senate vote is currently deadlocked at 31-31; another vote was expected in September. In the Assembly, Health Committee chair Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) has introduced a newly amended bill that would not allow cultivation by patients or caregivers, but would establish state-regulated dispensaries instead.

Pennsylvania introduced a bill in April to permit the use of medical marijuana with certain restrictions. (For example, caregivers can grow no more than six plants for a med-pot patient.) The bill's biggest drawback is that it currently has only six co-sponsors.

North Carolina's House Bill 1380 was introduced in April. In June, the House Committee on Health heard testimony from patients and medical professionals—the first time a med-pot bill has received a hearing in the North Carolina General Assembly.

New Hampshire faces what may prove to be only a temporary setback: Governor John Lynch (D) vetoed the medical-marijuana bill passed by both the House and Senate. Local activists are now working to achieve the two-thirds vote necessary in each house to override the veto.

Delaware seems open to the concept of medical marijuana—the state bill is being taken seriously



and will be voted upon in the Senate by 2010.

Rhode Island's General Assembly overrode the veto of Governor Donald Carcieri (R), leading to the establishment of state-licensed med-pot compassion centers. —Mark Miller

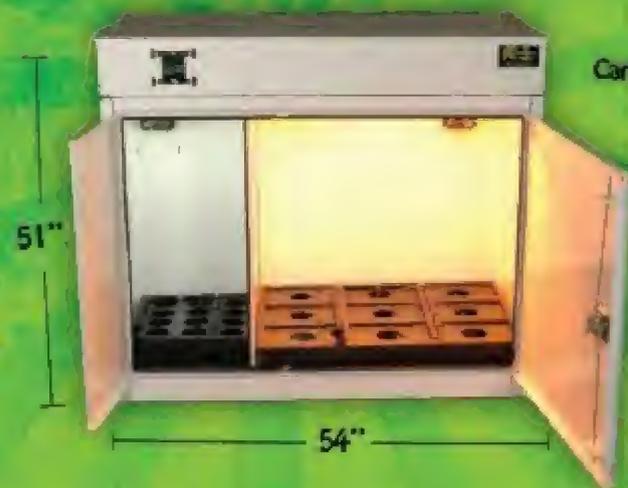
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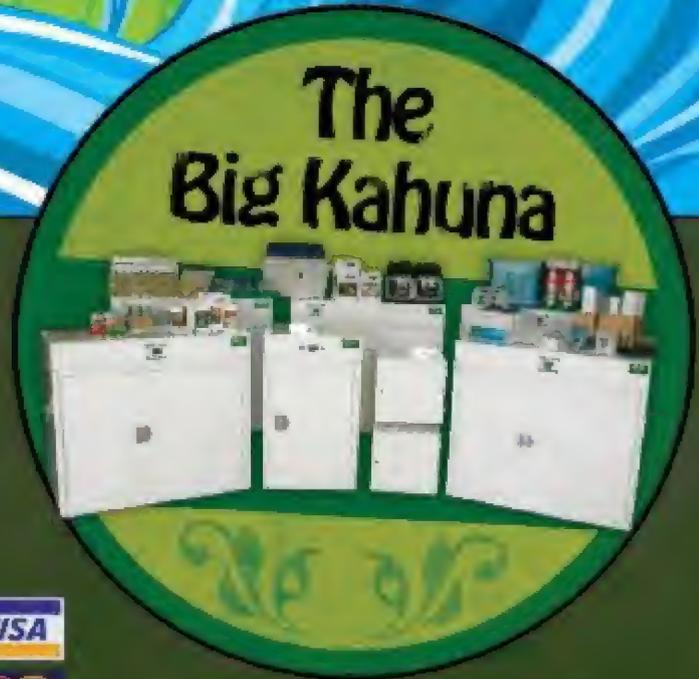


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BARNEY'S



Owner Derry Brett shows off the assortment of seeds at Barney's Farm.



BARNEY'S BUD, BREAKFAST & BEYOND

Boasting a menu of over 50 strains and an impressive 32 Cannabis Cup wins—not to mention a killer breakfast—Barney's is a favorite first stop for many a stoner tourist arriving in Amsterdam. This month, we take a closer look at the origins and evolution of one of the world's most celebrated and successful coffeeshops. By Bobby Black

"Barney's started with an interest in food, really," says the shop's original co-founder, Paul Gould. "When we first came to Amsterdam from the UK in '79, we couldn't find much to eat at the coffeeshops. All they sold were toasties and coffee and were all very cold—just took the money from you and left you; nothing else to do, no scene."

As an Englishman who didn't speak Dutch trying to make it in Amsterdam during a recession, Gould was having trouble finding a job and started to feel trapped. He eventually decided that his best option would be to start a business, so he turned to a friend—Irishman Nicky Matthews—for some capital.

"I asked around about what businesses you could start without any qualifications or papers, and there were basically three options: coffeeshop, snack bar or sex shop. Back then, the coffeeshop industry was still growing, so we went with that."

In 1986, Gould and Matthews entered into a partnership, buying a small café and renaming it Barney's (after a fat street cat that took up residence there). Their plan was to stand out from the other shops by serving a larger variety of food, and it worked—particularly in regard to their breakfast, for which they soon became well known. Gould eventually left the business in 1990 and was bought out by his partner. But two years later, Matthews suffered a heart attack and sold the business to an old buddy of his from Dublin, Derry Brett. A former Shell Oil executive turned marijuana botanist, Brett had moved to Holland in the early 1980s to pursue his passion for pot in a freer environment.

"I used to live in India—working a lot with genetics in the Himalayan mountains—but I had a base [in Amsterdam] as well. When I came back one year, Nicky said he was tired and wanted to get out. It was an impulsive deci-

sion, but I said, 'Okay—I'll take it on and see what happens.' That was in 1992 ... the rest is history."

Brett tackled coffeeshop ownership with the same business savvy and determination that he'd brought to his previous endeavors. His first order of business was to shift the shop's focus from the food to the herb. He also commissioned the iconic "sun face" logo design, which it's rumored is actually based on his own portrait.

"If you look at it, it's smiling, but there's a little something sinister there," he says with a mischievous grin.

Through branding, promotion, quality control and customer service, Brett managed to transform Barney's from one small shop into the cannabis empire it is today. In 2003, he opened Barney's Brasserie (now called Barney's Farm) on the corner two doors down from the coffeeshop. In 2005, he opened Barney's Lounge near Rembrandtplein. Then, in 2007, just as the ban on selling alcohol in coffeeshops was going into effect, he opened his fourth location—Barney's Uptown. Directly across the street from the famous coffeeshop, Uptown provides his customers with a comfortable environment for having a drink and a bite along with their smoke. This May, the restaurant hired a new world-class chef and created a revised, recession-friendly menu full of smaller, less expensive dishes.

But there are far bigger changes in store for Barney's than just the menu. As of January 2009, the original Barney's coffeeshop closed its doors to undertake the largest renovation in its history. This complete gutting and overhaul of the entire three-story structure is the culmination of over five years of planning and hundreds of thousands of euros.

"The building has been sinking for over 500 years," Brett explains, "so we're actually lifting the whole thing up and laying new foundations under-



This is how Barney's used to look ...



... here it is gutted ...



... and here's a virtual vision of the new apothecary-themed Barney's.



Barney's 2009 *Sativa* Cup entry, Dr. Grinspoon.

neath it. New cellars, new walls, new roof—it's basically a whole new structure."

The interior of the new and improved Barney's will be totally redesigned as well, with a long bar, eight tables, wider stools and a vintage pharmaceutical theme.

"The walls are drawers and shelves, giving the feeling of an old apothecary. Each table will have its own built-in Volcano vaporizer and its own plasma-screen TV showing tourist info, sporting events, etc.," says Brett.

After several delays and disputes with the local government, the remodeling should be completed by mid-October—a few months behind schedule, perhaps, but just in time for this year's Cannabis Cup. In the meantime, the Brasserie has been serving as the coffeeshop, selling the Barney's line of weeds and seeds. Of all the shops in Holland, only a handful actually breed their own cannabis; Barney's is among those few. The seed company—also called Barney's Farm, and started in the 1980s—supplies nearly all of the marijuana sold in the shops, as well as providing feminized seeds for the public. Though maintaining farms is more expensive and labor-intensive than simply purchasing weed from independent growers or seed companies (as most shops do), Brett insists that it's worth the effort.

"I want control over the marijuana. Sure, it's much cheaper and easier to go out and just buy the weed, but what you get from doing it yourself is ... you get what you *want*: You get very high-class, biologically grown marijuana that people will really want to smoke."

Barney's first entered the Cannabis Cup in 1997, and won second-place in the Best Hashish category for their Nepalese Temple Ball. Since then, they've won a staggering 32 Cannabis Cups—even sweeping the 20th-anniversary Cup in 2007. The only other shop to win that many Cups is Barney's main competition, the Green House.

"I was only ahead of Arjan for five minutes," laughs Brett. "Arjan had 31 Cups, then I won a bunch last year and got up to 32. But then he won the Cannabis Cup, so now we're tied."

Barney's Coffeeshop is undergoing the largest renovation in its history—a complete gutting and overhaul of the entire 500-year-old building.

This stalemate is sure to heat up the well-known rivalry between Brett and Arjan, who try to outdo each other every year in their struggle for the hearts and lungs of the judges. Even so, Brett makes it clear that this rivalry is very amicable and professional, not personal.

"Publicly, we may seem to be at odds with each other, but privately, we're really good friends," Brett admits. "Of course, we both have a lot of pride in what we do and love to win, so during the Cup, our hunger for success really comes out and we get very competitive. But we have a lot of respect for each other."

Due to the overwhelming success of Barney's and the Green House over the years, rumors have inevitably sprung up about these two shops "buying" the Cup, but Brett never takes the accusations to heart.

"It's just sour grapes," he says. "There was a time when I was just a tiny little coffeeshop going for the Cup—I was nobody, but I really wanted to win it. Promotion helps, but what really wins the Cannabis Cup year after year—for Arjan as well—is our passion for our trade. If you don't have that, you can throw a hundred million euros at it and you won't win a Cannabis Cup."

As far as this year's event goes, Brett is all too eager to offer us a sneak preview of what he has in store.

"Well, I can tell you that Dr. Grinspoon is our best *sativa* ever," he says confidently. But there's far more exciting news than that: In honor of the smugglers theme at this year's Cup, Brett has unearthed an old treasure.

"I was digging deep into my seed bank recently, looking for masters to re-master, and I found this Mexican strain that I've had in storage for over 20 years," he reveals. "We put down thousands of seeds to select from, and we struck gold—*Acapulco Gold*."

That's right: The fabled Acapulco Gold will be making an appearance at this year's Cup. But will it be Barney's official entry? When asked, Brett flashes that same mischievous smile. "You'll have to wait and see." 🌿

Find out more at barneys.biz and hightimes.com/barneys.



THMQ

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$361** (last month: \$364; YTD: \$367)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$435** (\$439, \$441)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$268** (\$257, \$267)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$60** (\$73, \$84)



GSPOT

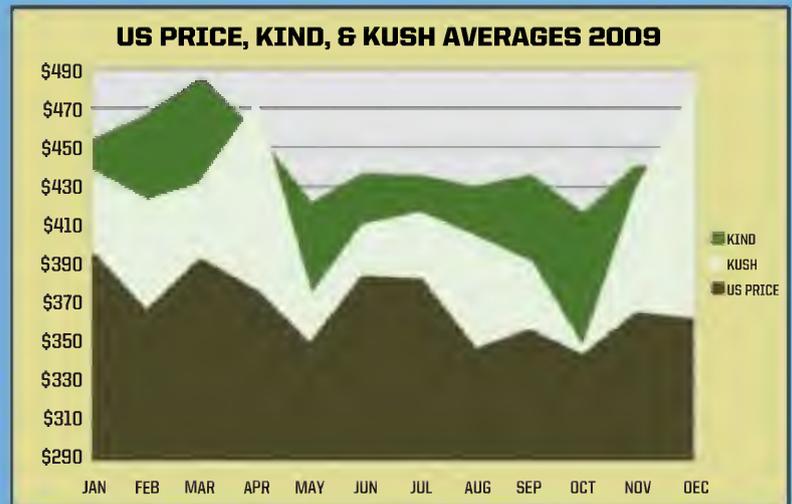
STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE	
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Bubba Kush	\$430	
		Granddaddy Purps	\$450	
		Sweet God	\$430	
CALIFORNIA	Frazier Park	Pineapple	\$350	
		LA Confidential	\$350	
	San Diego	Pineapple x Trainwreck	\$280	
		Shasta Lake	Grape Ape	\$300
VISALIA	Purple Pineapple	\$480		
	COLORADO	Colorado Springs	White Widow	\$350
Denver	Sour Diesel	\$300		
DELAWARE	Wilmington	White Rhino	\$300	
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Trainwreck	\$450	
		NYC Diesel	\$450	
		Headband Kush	\$550	
		Citrus Skunk	\$475	
IDAHO	Boise	Blueberry Trainwreck	\$300	
		Hash Plant	\$300	
KANSAS	Kansas City	Mids	\$225	
KENTUCKY	Louisville	Jack the Ripper	\$500	
		Danny Boy	\$500	
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	White Berry	\$300	
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Sour Diesel	\$300	
		Blue Dream	\$420	
NEW JERSEY	Newark	Haze	\$370	
		Strawberry Cough	\$400	
NEW MEXICO	Farmington	Franken Berry	\$350	
		Santa Fe	Super Lemon Haze	\$500
NEW YORK	Brockport	Biesel	\$420	
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville	Bubble Jack	\$400	
		Winston-Salem	Purple Brainwreck	\$400
OHIO	Akron	Alaskan Ice	\$400	
		Athens	Kali Mist	\$410
OREGON	Eagle Creek	Super Silver Haze	\$280	
PENNSYLVANIA	Reading	Sour Diesel	\$420	
		Purple Haze	\$420	
		Jack Herer	\$420	
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	AK-47	\$400	
TEXAS	Bexar County	Schwag	\$50	
		Brownsville	OG Kush	\$600
		Fort Worth	White Widow	\$380
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Bubba Kush	\$350	
WASHINGTON	Aberdeen	Hawaiian Snow	\$325	
		Arjan's Ultra Haze	\$300	
WISCONSIN	Appleton	Mexican	\$185	
INTERNATIONAL (prices in Australian or Canadian dollars or Norwegian kroner)				
AUSTRALIA	Melbourne	G-13	A\$280	
		Bubble Bag Black Hash	A\$420	
CANADA	Alberta	Purple Haze	C\$240	
		Halifax	C\$280	
		St. Thomas	C\$200	
NORWAY	Bergen	Northern Lights	Kr 615	

MARKET ANALYSIS

Diesel—a perennial runner-up—closed out 2009 by narrowly beating Kush and Haze for its first finish as the most submitted strain of the month since October 2008 (14 months). For those who enjoy keeping track of such things, Kush was easily the most submitted strain of the year, with eight first-place finishes (including a tie in August); Purps took high honors three times; and Northern Lights and Diesel each finished in the top pot spot once. The top five submitted strains for December (with average price) were Diesel (\$386), Kush (\$476), Haze (\$413), Purps (\$450) and Trainwreck (\$358).

Index Watch: All indices finished the month within \$6 of their year-to-date averages with the exception of the Schwag Index, which dropped \$13 from the previous month and finished \$24 below its year-to-date average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.



Franken Berry - \$350
Farmington, NEW MEXICO
"I've had pot that tasted like Franken Berry cereal before, and this ain't it. Full of tiny seeds ... guess those are the 'berries.'"

Biesel - \$420
Brockport, NEW YORK
"Absolutely beautiful Biesel (third-generation Blueberry x Sour Diesel) that is distinctive to Western New York! It truly is the best of both worlds: It lures you in with its fruity Blueberry smell, then kicks you in the lungs with the oh-so-pungent and powerful taste of Diesel."

Purple Brainwreck - \$400
Winston-Salem, NORTH CAROLINA
"Purple Brainwreck is some of the finest

weed I have ever smoked. Deep purple flavor, very pungent aroma. Disorienting, near-psychedelic high. This is a must-have strain for any connoisseur."

Northern Lights - Kr 615
Bergen, NORWAY
"It's very rare that you can get your hands on some good weed in Bergen, almost only hash. Most people don't even know what strain they're selling—they don't even understand the word 'strain.' But occasionally there's some good homegrown on the street."

Bubble Jack - \$400
Asheville, NORTH CAROLINA
"A luxurious blend of Bubblegum and Jack Herer. Not for the novice puffer. Full-body high and sativa-dominant."



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A DAY WITH THE DISCO BISCUITS

America's smartest band just got a little bit slower.

By Nico Escondido



Q: What happens when you put four Ivy-league rock stars in a room full of pot?
A: They smoke it.

GARDEN PREP

If you've never seen or heard The Disco Biscuits play, it can best be described as a listening experience that back-crosses organic jam-rock with synthetic electronica—an improvisational fusion of sounds that creates a completely new and unique hybrid for the ears. Please forgive the grow-related puns, but as I told the Biscuits one afternoon eons ago, I am most used to interviewing plants, not one of the music scene's most engaging bands of the past few years. And if my trained eyes told me anything that day, it's that The Disco Biscuits' garden is yielding big.

As has become customary during my tenure at HIGH TIMES, we carefully select groups to visit our *off-site* studios over the holidays, a time when our offices in New York are closed but our secondary locations afford some extra liberties. The Biscuits were just about to embark on an ambitious winter/spring tour and were cutting tracks for their latest album, *Plant Anthem* (debuting later this winter), in their newly acquired Diamond Studios in Philadelphia. Everyone was pretty amped for the occasion, though maybe not so much at first.

Suffice it to say, we weren't quite sure how the band would react to posing with a large guitar case filled to the brim with choice nuggets. Sure, they agreed to an interview with HIGH TIMES, but as other musicians have noted during past sessions, not everyone wants their mother seeing their face next to a huge pile

of nugs. Luckily for us, the Biscuit boys didn't take a lot of convincing.

The outcome? A brilliant photo shoot, a great interview, a few draft beers and plenty of ping-pong action ... ah, yes, and a whole lot of smoking that rendered most if not all of us utterly useless by day's end. Success!

PLANTING SEEDS

But the story runs deeper than just having a good time. In the hours we spent with the four-man band, a lot came to light about the guys as individuals, as a group, and as a vehicle for advancing more than just their names. Indeed, the band's roots are strong. And it turns out that The Disco Biscuits are, in fact, America's smartest band.

What started in an Ivy League dorm room at the University of Pennsylvania in the early '90s has slowly evolved into a serious regimen of endless show dates, festivals, jam-cruises and international oddities. Admittedly, in the beginning, some of the band's members were maybe less committed than others. "Yeah, I missed the first show," says a sheepish Marc Brownstein, the band's bassist. "Phish was playing someplace else and, well, that's where I was." It would be hugely uncharacteristic these days, however, to hear anything that noncommittal from a group that is deeply devoted to their music, their fans and each other. Not to mention hearing anything else sheepish coming out of the



Goin' up? The band, definitely. But the studio's super? He didn't like the Biscuits elevator play time.

mouth of the flamboyant Brownstein—known amongst fans and his fellow bandmates simply as “Brownie.”

Another big personality within the band is Aron Magner, the group's man on the keys. Although when it comes to music, all of the Biscuits are equally talented, Magner and Brownie serve as the public front-men, with an endless array of banter on any topic—most notably on this day, as you might expect, weed and experimental forms of drug use.

“Some of our best sessions came out of those dorms,” says Magner, motioning with his arms to indicate the expansiveness of the music from that era. “That one week, man, where we locked ourselves in the library with a DOS-controlled synthesizer and made electronic music—

wow! I think that was the first time I took acid, actually, was that week!”

The band's open-mindedness manifests itself through more than just their creative highs. One example would be the poignant guitar playing by Jon Gutwillig, arguably one of the best guitarists on the jamband circuit today. Bringing a solid, steadfast groove to the group, Jon has a distinctive style both onstage and off.

There is a quiet confidence that exudes from him as well as the band's percussionist, Allen Aucoin. Together, they form a unit that is seemingly complementary to the raucousness caused by Brownie and Magner—but deep down, each of these guys is just as mischievous as the others. Especially Aucoin, who at first glance seemed least excited about the day's puffing and passing, but by session's end was properly ripped and coyly posing in a variety of garden shots that had everyone in tears.

“We're a bunch of hams, every one of us,” says a chuckling Magner. “We love what we do and we love each other, and that's the bottom line.”

BUDDING STARS

Of course, it would be wrong to say that these guys are just now entering their final phase of flowering—both because they've been budding now for the better part of this new century and because, if energy is any indication, these guys still have a lot further to go.

Working off notes from some favorite bands of their own, The Disco Biscuits were quick to raise a few iconic, interactive musical events, including their very own annual summer festival known as Camp Bisco (now in its eighth year). Perhaps just as popular is their new Caribbean Holiday festival, which brings bands (the Biscuits and Umphrey's McGee anchor the line-up) and fans down to a lush Caribbean resort at Runaway Bay, Jamaica, for a few days each holiday season. Plus the band just returned from a huge festival in Japan—and this amid a solid year of ambitious touring throughout the United States.

But the real crowning jewel these days, at least on a personal level, is the Biscuits' new home in Diamond Studios. Formerly owned by another Philly native, DJ Jazzy Jeff, the plush studios offer the band a home for their music, their families and their friends. Watching their faces light up as they discussed their new creative digs told the whole story—and even a little bit extra about their forthcoming album.

“We've been working on it the better part of my whole life,” says Brownstein about the new album, with the rest of the band laughing and nodding in agreement.

“We don't want to finish it because it's been such a fun process,” adds Magner. “Usually we go into a studio and have to bang it out—but now we have our own studio, so it's like: ‘Let's keep working on the album!’”

When asked if they try to keep regular hours at their new home, the reaction is mixed. “Yes, definitely, we're all there every day, but at what time—” Magner starts.

“We keep more along the lines of HIGH TIMES hours!” Brownstein finishes. And with that, my next question is also answered: Who sleeps latest in the band?

Then a cell phone rings, and everyone boos the poor interview etiquette of Brownie as he pulls it from his pocket. “Hold on, guys—sorry Mom, I'm in an interview at HIGH TIMES magazine ... HIGH TIMES magazine, Mom! I'll call you back!” And with that, another question got answered: Who's the likeliest *momma's boy* in the band?

Of course, the most important question in any HIGH TIMES interview is: Who's the biggest stoner in the band? Quietly, in my mind, I was hoping it was Aucoin. I don't know what it was, but something about Allen made him my dark-horse candidate—the sort of reserved guy who goes onstage and then rages like a maniac makes an intriguing stoner figure, no? Still, given that this is a band who recently had their own Disco Biscuits brand of rolling papers manufactured by the world-renowned paper company Bambú, they were probably all huge stoners. But at the end of the day, it was Brownie, going three for three, who took home the stoner award as well. Hey, the guy showed up to a HIGH TIMES interview with his own weed and hash!

HARVEST TIME

Planet Anthem, to be released this coming January, is the Biscuits' eleventh album to date. However, as is their style, the band will be releasing the new tracks in an unconventional manner: Starting in September, the group will unleash a short EP each month leading up to the January date when the full album drops.

While *Planet Anthem* is rumored to have a total of 12 brand-new tracks, the EP's will each have one or two new songs from the album, along with remixes and A- and B-sides. What's particularly interesting about the process is that, while the band have played a slew of new songs on their 2009 tour, they have yet to perform a single track off the new album.

“None of the songs on the album have been played live yet,” Gutwillig confirms. “Out of almost 50 songs we wrote for this album, the new ones we're playing live are the ones that aren't making the cut for the album.”

“It's a load of material over a lot of different styles of music,” adds Brownstein. “And when that first tour starts after the album comes out and we start playing those new songs”

A really excited Magner interjects: “We'll get to jam on every section of each new song until we find out where those improvisational pieces go! It's very exciting for us.”

Talk about harvesting some choice nuggets—these guys are coming into their prime at exactly the right time. As the day came to a close, you could read it like trichomes turning amber on buds: These guys are ready for a harvest of epic proportions. Only it might have to wait until tomorrow

Walking out of the studios, I ask Aucoin how he's feeling. “Right now? Kinda stupid,” he says slowly. That's okay, though: We know these guys still have a few brain cells to spare. ✨

Vocalist Sera Timms palms the band's stasi.



PAINT IT BLACK

Black Math Horseman recalibrate the heavy-metal paradigm. By Chris Ziegler

When Black Math Horseman rolled up to legendary Kyuss bassist Scott Reeder's secluded desert studio, they may have been expecting something between desolate and devastating. Instead, they got the golden age of Disney: "Eleven dogs come rushing out, and all these wild peacocks are flying and squawking, and he's got these miniature ponies," says Black Math guitarist and singer Bryan Tulao. "We're all complete animal fanatics. He'd be like, 'Okay, let's get set up.' 'But I'm not done petting the pony!' It's Fantasyland out there!"

That was about day two in the official life of Black Math Horseman, the Los Angeles foursome who started recording their debut album, *Wyllt* (Tee Pee), the morning after their very first show, which happened to be only a week after drummer Sasha Popovic signed on. (Before that,

guitarists Tulao and Ian Barry spent a few loose months jamming with singer and bassist Sera Timms in Barry's motorcycle shop.) Tulao hadn't spoken much to his old bandmate Popovic since their days in a group called Mother Tongue, but coaxed him back with a simple promise: "It's not going to be that brutal of an experience for you."

Of course, that turned out to be completely untrue—but in all the best ways. *Wyllt* was supposed to be merely a demo, but the unexpectedly powerful sessions demanded an official release. Long-form story-songs that you might expect from bands like Sleep and (later) Earth collapse and climax around Timms's dolorous vocals and bent-backward guitar leads by Tulao and Barry; there's as much of Can's menacing sense for emptiness as there is Sabbath's matter-of-fact bluntness in these six songs, and the

concluding crescendo snaps off so cleanly that "*To be continued...*" may as well be cut into the dead wax on the vinyl.

In fact, during the album's recording, even producer Reeder wasn't exactly sure where the songs would end up. As Tulao recalls: "We'd wonder what Scott was thinking: 'Is he even liking this?' 'One more take'—what's that *mean*?' We didn't know until we left and he said, 'Wow, this is really, really good!' Each time we went, we had a few more songs—and each time, he had no idea *what* we were doing. 'All right,' he'd say, 'I'm excited to hear what you're gonna do!'"

Fans of the good old cosmic heroic epic—from Gilgamesh to Roland the gunslinger—will feel the same, and those with an interest in the more arcane margins of medieval lore will especially appreciate *Wyllt*. Named for Myrrdin Wyllt, a sixth-century mystic and prophet said to be the inspiration for Merlin, Black Math Horseman's first album is the tale of a man who dies three separate deaths: falling from a cliff, impaled on a spike and drowned in a river. Each album will be a story about one of those deaths, says Tulao, which might explain the vertiginous ending on their first one. The next will find Black Math Horseman shedding their drone-y mode for something more "intense," he adds. ("The first two songs—they're pretty fucking insane!")

The band's members share an interest in all things esoteric, Tulao explains—even Sasha-come-lately Popovic, indoctrinated this summer into the sort of obscure disciplines championed at LA's Philosophical Research Society. There, the band routinely visits an extensive library filled with texts on alchemy, prophecy, secret societies and the like.

'They come up to me all the time: "What are you on? Come on, man!" I thought it was really funny.'

"They've got anything you can imagine," Tulao says excitedly. "You go in and you feel a fucking *presence*. They have some stuff in the vaults that's really heavy." One item in particular still puzzles him: "It looked fucking ancient, and it was signed by Helen Keller—what the fuck?"

"A lot of people are searching," he continues. It's a statement that informs the band's trips to the library as well as the music on their first album, which offers a punishing setting for the travails of the much-misunderstood Myrrdin. And, as with the classic head records of the '70s, Tulao acknowledges that a little herbal augmentation might help the quest along.

"I wouldn't say we're a stoner band, but we've all definitely had that experience," he says. "It influences our music, because you have that experience of opening up: Every time we play, I literally feel I go into a trance state. We've had people come up to us at shows, baked or on something, and they have some really heavy experiences. They come up to me all the time: 'What are you on? Come on, man!' I thought it was really funny—what the hell am I doing, like just drooling from the side of my mouth?" ✨

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'SMOKES, LET'S GO'

Canada's homegrown heroes, the Trailer Park Boys, return for one last pot-fueled adventure. By David Bienenstock

With the final Trailer Park Boys movie hitting theaters across Canada this month, and the groundbreaking television series now finished after seven hit seasons, Ricky, Julian and Bubbles face the prospect of finding new lines of work in a tough economy. Fortunately, they've got a few valuable trades to fall back on, like bootlegging liquor, repairing shopping carts, stealing outdoor barbecue grills, acting in low-budget porn films, "remarketing" stolen Christmas gifts, ganking groceries, running a rub-and-tug, robbing video-poker machines, and—only as a last resort—ripping the copper wire out of their trailers for scrap metal.

Over the years, however, nothing has proved anywhere near as lucrative as simply growing the best weed in Nova Scotia and supplying it to friends and neighbors (and Snoop Dogg) at a reasonable markup. But now, with all the recent talk of marijuana legalization in the media, the ganja-growing and dope-selling denizens of Sunnyvale Trailer Park have started to worry that their favorite "cash crop" just might get taken away.

"Because it's illegal, I can grow just one trailer full of plants and yield enough buds to support my family," Ricky, the Boys' designated green thumb, tells HIGH TIMES. "But if they legalize, I guess that's for the greater goods and services. The government is all high as fuck already, so everyone should share and enjoy the many benefits of the herb. Anyway, if the cops want to bust somebody, they should bust God—He's the one behind it all. Why don't the cops arrest the fucking ground, or the fucking sun and fucking water and fucking photosynthesizers, or those fucking elephants in India who eat huge weed plants on their morning walks? Why don't they arrest those cockweeds instead of me?"

The always-busy HIGH TIMES fact-checking department found no evidence for the existence of pot-munching pachyderms, in India or anywhere else, but Ricky's point is well taken. As for *Countdown to Liquor Day*, the new feature film, there's no word yet on whether it finds the Boys returning to their cannabis-

cultivating ways, but loyal viewers and new recruits can look forward to the same level of "high" jinks that have made the show the best-loved Canadian export since Island Sweet Skunk. Just ask Axl Rose, who joined Bubbles on-stage in Halifax for a rendition of "Liquor and Whores," or Sebastian Bach and Rush guitarist Alex Lifeson, who each guest-starred on the show—not to mention celebrity super-fans Paul McCartney, Harrison Ford, Alec Baldwin, Eddie Murphy, Jimmy Kimmel and Kid Rock.

Mike Clattenburg, the show's co-creator, director and head writer, built up two beautiful worlds around Sunnyvale Trailer Park—one full of heroes and villains, shit metaphors, six-paper joints and "hash hockey," where the good guys may end every season by going to prison, but at least it's Canadian jail, which Julian assures us is "awesome"; and another world, behind the scenes and out of camera range, populated by a homegrown cast and crew who gave their all to proving that a "do-it-yourself" show about three lovable, incorrigible, recidivist stoners who put friends and family above law and order has a place on TV, and in our hearts.

Recently, the series has started airing in the US on DirecTV's 101 Network, and all seven seasons are available on DVD. *Trailer Park Boys* also plays to eager cult fans in the UK, Iceland, Denmark, Australia, Spain, New Zealand, Portugal, Germany, Israel, Bulgaria and (naturally) the Netherlands.

So why must the show, like all good things, come to an end?

"Ending the show was very hard on everyone—and me in particular, as it was my call," Clattenburg tells HIGH TIMES. "We had so much momentum, and so many close friends were employed, it was incredibly difficult to pull the rug out. But creatively, it felt right to end it. You don't want to drive a show you love into the ground. It bothers me to see many old and new fans disappointed that we are not doing more. It gets to me ... but that's the way she goes. That's the fucking way she goes." ✨



TPB ON HT.COM

The Trailer Park Boys have graced our cover twice in Canada and even made a "highly educational" cameo appearance in *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD*, which HIGH TIMES filmed entirely in British Columbia. Now, for the first time, these collectors' editions are available at hightimes.com/trailer_park_boys/as_back_issues.



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SMUGGLER'S DUES

Weed Man: The Remarkable Journey of Jimmy Divine JOHN MCCASLIN

(Thomas Nelson)



Jimmy Moree, a.k.a. Jimmy Divine, is no pothead. In fact, he's never taken a puff of the beloved herb, or a sip of alcohol, or indulged in any other mind-altering material. But his story is one of the most fascinating accounts of 1970s drug trafficking ever made public—and for all Divine's innocence, perhaps one of the most honest insider perspectives available.

Put into book form by John McCaslin, the award-winning political writer, broadcaster and author of the nationally syndicated column "Inside the Beltway," *Weed Man* allows the story to unfold largely in Divine's white Bahamian or "Conchy Joe" voice. From his first childhood experience tending pot plants with friends on a nearby cay, to finding millions of dollars of abandoned weed on a deserted beach, to making—and sometimes giving away—millions of dollars more, to his years spent managing one of the biggest smuggling operations of the era (running from Colombia through the Bahamas into Florida), Divine's story is told in his endearing voice, with a plainspoken perspective on



Buds on the run.

Ultimately, *Weed Man* paints a vibrant case for marijuana decriminalization in an unexpected and delightful way. This book is a must-read for smuggling and pot-history buffs, and especially for the "divinely" sober folk who exist in every good stoner's life —**Mary Ought Six**

circumstances that are truly unique.

Divine's adoptive mother, Olive, ran a tight ship while bringing him up in their little island home. Little Jimmy was raised religiously in every type of church available to them, and Olive saw to it that he knew from his very first steps that using drugs and alcohol was not an acceptable lifestyle choice. Olive's influence never left him, but destiny managed to put her own motherly hand into guiding Jimmy Divine's life.

After finding that initial beach score—bales upon bales of potent Colombian *mota*—the ball just kept on rolling, though through it all, Divine maintained his standards. "We were the 'weed people,'" he recalls. "That's all we moved, no other drugs." The hard stuff turned his stomach more than the thought of straying from his signature drink: Shirley Temples. This is not to say he didn't have vices—he loved good food, gold chains, Rolex watches and girls—but they never seemed to impinge on his basic decency.

WOODY GUTHRIE

My Dusty Road

(Rounder Records)



"The more time goes by," writes daughter Nora Guthrie in the booklet for this essential box set, "the clearer Woody's voice gets."

Nora's making several points at once: 1) With some exceptions, these recordings are derived from the original metal masters, and the sound quality is literally crystal clear; 2) as the human experience becomes increasingly virtual and less authentic thanks to corporations and technology, Woody's simple humanity shines through in comparison; and 3) in a country that practices torture, the justice that Woody relentlessly fought for remains elusive—and imperative.

Recorded over six days in 1944, the 54 songs (six unreleased) on these four CD's are an aural Rosetta Stone of the people's history in these United States. Each disc is organized around a theme. The first is *Woody's Greatest Hits* and includes classics like "This Land Is Your Land" and "Pretty Boy Floyd." Songs derived from older sources—also called folk music—comprise the second disc, called *Woody's Roots*. "This Machine Kills Fascists" read the legend on Guthrie's guitar, and disc three, *Woody the Agitator*, features topical and pro-union songs. The fourth, *Woody, Cisco and Sonny*, shows off Guthrie on guitar, mandolin and fiddle, Cisco Houston on guitar, and Sonny Terry on mouth harp, wailin' like some proto-jamband.

During the Depression, Guthrie was employed by the government to write songs extolling Roosevelt's New Deal efforts to help unemployed workmen. It's a history lesson with clear implications for today—as clear as Woody's voice on this indomitable set. —**Michael Simmons**



VERMEFÜG

Wet Nightmare

(Old Metal Records)



Vermefüg hail from the outer boroughs of NYC and are stalwarts of the East Coast party thrash scene, which also includes Philadelphia's BSOM, Trasher and Vulcan; New Brunswick, NJ's Killin' It; and NYC newcomers Cerebral Ballzy. Attending a show by any of these bands is sort of like switching into automatic summer—the summer of '86, that is, all tight jeans, fat high-tops, red BC Rich Bitches, and beer fucking *everywhere*. I know a lot of older serious metal dudes who dismiss these bands out of hand, but they can suck it and stay home listening to grindcore and weeping tears of blood into their small-batch brews: This shit rules.

Wet Nightmare is Vermefüg's maiden (Maiden?) full-length effort, and it effectively delivers the blistering thrash I've come to expect from their live shows, replete with lightning-fast leads and breaks (which are hilariously credited in the liner notes: "Lead: Jeff.") as well as some catchy choruses, most notably on "Die Humans." Other stand-out tracks are "Tenaflly Viper" and "The Grateful Shred," both of which are guaranteed pit-starters. Some of the "party" gets lost in the clarity of the lyrics, which are a little repetitive, as the vocals themselves tend to be, but that's a minor complaint and the nature of the beast. It's also worth noting that the vocalist, Metal Thrashing Matt, is a pretty outstanding artist, and that means good shit at the merch table come tour time. —**Polly Watson**



FABOLOUS

Loso's Way

(Desert Storm/Def Jam)



Although Fabolous's 16-track concept LP, *Loso's Way* (accompanying by a DVD movie), is intended to echo *Carlito's Way*, the album's artwork provides the most accurate portrayal of the epic theme. In accordance, however, the Kush-smoking Brooklynite standout pulls it off in a fashion that only he can muster—three tracks in, on "Imma Do It" (featuring an R&B chorus by Kobe), he discloses: "My attitude is celibate/I don't give a fuck!"

The witty, often comedic and methodic metaphors remain consistent throughout. Even with the eight R&B collaborations, including Ryan Leslie (who produced "Everything, Everyday, Everywhere" featuring sultry songstress Keri Hilson), Fabolous remains one of the few MC's who can favor with the ladies while maintaining hood appeal. "A thug changes and love changes/And best friends become strangers" is the hook aptly borrowed from Nas for "Pachanga," wherein he further advises: "And less friends are your best friends become strangers." Jay-Z's "When the Money Goes" becomes "Money Goes, Honey Stay," produced by Jermaine Dupri and Sam Wilf, with Loso asking if he can count on his woman to still be around once their lavish lifestyle has vanished. The most intimate of all the tracks, "Stay," showcases the soulfully adept Marsha Ambrosius's melodic charms, as Fabolous recalls his abandonment by his father and proclaims the importance of being there for his own children: "I give a fuck about hip-hop's new beef/I was more excited when my son grew teeth." The overall balance, quality and power of *Loso's Way* may indeed make it the hip-hop album of the year. —**TRU**



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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH
WICKED JONES

Charlotte, NC's Wicked Jones exist at the intersection where Guns N' Roses and Al Green meet. Finding such a mysterious crossroads may make your GPS freeze up in utter confusion, but it exists. Robert Johnson may not have sold his soul to the devil there, but he'd likely feel right at home along this freestyle freeway.

Wicked Jones create hard rock with soul. (Or should that be "soul that rocks hard"?) And before you scoff at the notion, ask yourself this: Was Jimi Hendrix a rock star or a soul singer? If you answered "both," you've proven the point.

The group began in 2007 as a trio fronted by guitarist Jason Sossoman; then lead vocalist Gregoria "G" D'Vol-dre joined up. G claims that hearing Ozzy Osbourne's wildly passionate singing in Black Sabbath initially helped him to recognize the infinite possibilities of combining metal power with soul passion. But Sossoman's bluesy slide guitar, along with Jack Kitchen's funky bass and Calvin "Manny" Carter's groove-inducing drums, are evidence that this is more than just a one soul-man show.

Though the band's enigmatic style is difficult to label, any good chef will tell you that the only way to create new dishes is to take extravagant liberties with a wide variety of ingredients. So what you have in Wicked Jones is a whole new delicious flavor. Enjoy!

For more on Wicked Jones, including album info, audio samples and tour dates, head to hightimes.com/wickedjones.

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ALMOST INFAMOUS

BY BOBBY BLACK

Be prepared!



TRAILBLAZERS

Growing up in Bensonhurst, the closest I ever came to camping was chasing chipmunks at my grandparents' place in New Hampshire. But then, toward the end of junior high, I got a serious hankering for the forest. So my mom called up her friend Charlie (who happened to head up a Boy Scout troop) and arranged for my friend Mike and I to go on a weekend camping trip with him. Now I wasn't exactly what you'd call Boy Scout material, but luckily, there was another option: Charlie also organized "unofficial" camping trips for a ragtag bunch of Irish teenagers from Gerritsen Beach—a dirty dozen of ginger punks in battle fatigues who called themselves the Trailblazers.

Mike and I were psyched. Along with our standard camping gear, we packed an assortment of Led Zeppelin cassettes and knives, plus a cigarette box containing a lighter, a pack of Bambú, a small corncob pipe and two dime bags. You know what they say: *Be prepared.*

On a Friday evening, Charlie piled us into an old school bus and drove us out to a campground at West Point, where we would all be staying in a big, rustic cabin full of bunk beds. Mike and I were a few years younger than the rest of the gang, but I was used to hanging out with older dudes, so that didn't really faze me. They, however, weren't such happy campers: For the rest of that night and the following day, all we got from them were cold shoulders, dirty looks and down-talk. They'd cluster up off in the distance, whispering shit about us under their breath and frequently disappearing for half an hour at a time. Whenever we approached them, they'd quickly hush up and tell us to get lost. So Mike and I kept to ourselves—sneaking out behind the cabin to smoke a bowl whenever we got a chance, scared that someone would catch us and tell our parents.

On the second night, it was time for war games. The group broke into two teams, each heading out in the opposite direction on the main trail that looped around the lake. The object: to "kill" enemy combatants guerrilla-style by holding a knife (a *real* knife) up to them and declaring them dead. Our team leader, Franko, sent us ahead as "scouts" (a.k.a. bait), expecting us to be eliminated quickly. What he didn't realize was that Mike and I had been playing war games on the streets of Brooklyn since we were 10.

We hightailed it all the way around the lake, eventually coming to a long wooden footbridge that stretched across a narrower end of the water. With no one else yet in sight, we climbed down under the bridge and waited. Before long, a pair of enemy scouts arrived: a particularly obnoxious character named Archer and one of his cronies. Cautiously, they began to cross the bridge, but stopped halfway across—*right above us.*

"Okay, man, all clear—bust it out," I heard Archer say. Next came the flick of a lighter, and that familiar inward whistle that could only be the toking of a joint. *Perfect.* With their guard down, we silently sprang up behind them and made the kill.

"You're dead!" I announced, pressing my Rambo survival knife to Archer's back.

"FUCK!" he exclaimed in surprise—sending the joint tumbling from his lips and through the slats of the bridge into the lake.

"*Son of a bitch!*" he wailed. "That's it—I've had it! I'm gonna kick your asses! I don't care what Charlie told us—I came out here to get high, not to play baby-sitter."

"We didn't know you guys got high," I said.

"Why do you think we call ourselves the Trail-blazers, Einstein?"

"Cool—we smoke too!"

"You little mama's boys? *Bullshit!*"

I pulled out the cigarette pack from my pocket and showed him our stash. Suddenly, his whole demeanor changed.

"No shit!" he said in disbelief. "Check this shit out—these kids are holding!"

It seems my mom must've lectured Charlie about keeping an eye on us, so he'd forbidden the guys to smoke when we were around. No wonder they hated us—they were coming out here so they could get high without being hassled, and thanks to Charlie, our presence had been a giant buzzkill. But now the war was over—now they saw that we were potheads just like them; we were Trailblazers too.

When we got back to camp, we marched straight up to Charlie and came clean. He just smirked and shook his head. Turns out that in addition to being a scoutmaster, Charlie was also a dealer. We all blazed out the cabin together, and from then on we were officially part of the troop. He never told on us, and we never told on him—that is, until now. Sorry, Charlie. ✨

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GROW INFO

Remembering Scott Kelman

Whatever happened in his life became grist for his theatrical mill. By Paul Krassner

Most likely, you never heard of Scott Kelman. Well, here are the parts left out of his obituary.

Scott had seen me perform standup at Town Hall in New York, and again at the LA Stage Company in Hollywood. He had moved to Los Angeles and planned to launch an alternative theater in the grungy old industrial skid-row area downtown. He named it the Wallenboyd Theater (at the corner of Wall and Boyd) and invited me to open there as soon as it was completed. In fact, on the first night of my performance, the crew was still banging in the final nails.

At the time, I was living in San Francisco, so Scott slept at his office and I stayed at his apartment in Venice Beach. A year later, I moved to an apartment on the same block. Scott became my producer and my close friend. We never had any need for a signed contract. As my producer, he would occasionally give me suggestions, and I would follow those that I felt worked for me.

"It doesn't matter if you fuck up," he'd say in his distinctive gravelly voice—he was addicted to cigarettes—"it's how you recover." That was theatrical advice which also applied to life. And it was a two-way street: For Scott, whatever happened in life automatically became grist for his theatrical mill. And he was an exemplary explorer.

Knowing I was an unbeliever, he once asked me, "What do atheists say during sex when they come?"

"Oh, *no-God!*" I improvised, interspersing those words with moans and groans. "Oh, *no-God!* Oh, *no-God!* Oh, *no-God!*"

He suggested that I expand that concept into a stage piece, and it evolved into a 10-minute meditation on the relationship between religion and orgasms.

Scott conducted theatrical workshops, and one of his students was John Densmore, formerly drummer of the Doors. "I stumbled into the downtown art scene," Densmore told me,



Scott Kelman, a theatrical visionary.

'It doesn't matter if you fuck up. It's how you recover.'

he produced a completely sold-out series that was extended for two weekends (though if Shearer had been named after his *other* grandfather, there wouldn't have been a Peter, Paul and Harry).

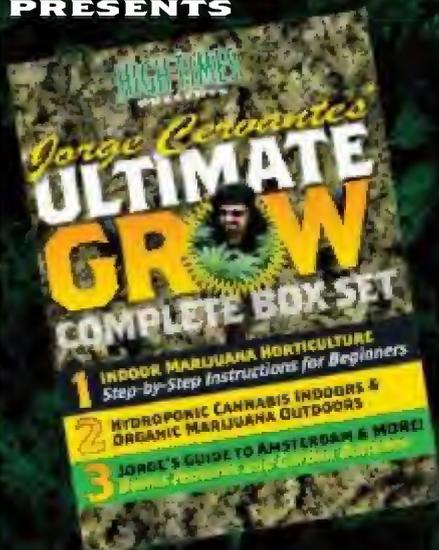
Each of us prepared to perform in his own particular way. Peter would stare at himself in the mirror and make strange sounds to exercise his vocal cords. Harry would sit in a separate room with his make-up woman, who had flown in from Iowa to transform him into Derek Smalls from *Spinal Tap*. And I would be off hiding behind some boxes, toking away on a joint of the marijuana that served as my creative fuel.

Scott was under the impression that I performed better when I *wasn't* high, and he was sure I was straight when he told me one night, "That was the best show you've ever done." I confessed that I had smoked a giant doobie before I went onstage. The irony was that Scott sold pot to help pay the rent, and that was exactly the stash that got me stoned. ✨

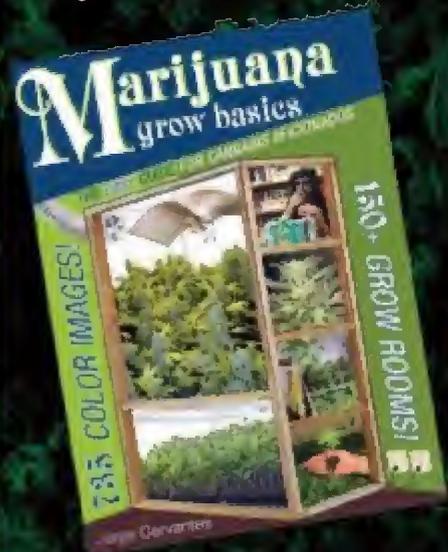
Paul Krassner and Scott Kelman spent many a stimulating hour in Chinese restaurants. When Kelman died, a coupon for Chinese food was placed into the box that he would be cremated in. Visit Paul in his own box at paulkrassner.com before he reaches his expiration date.

HIGH TIMES

PRESENTS



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Have you had enough of all those mind numbing complicated feed charts, schedules, pH-PPM pens, meters, different feed rates and all kinds of other hard to figure out gadgets? It's messy. It's time-consuming. It's virtually impossible to figure out, let alone get it right. Plus, all those bottles of calibration solutions, pH-up, pH-down chemicals and the tiny holes they burn into your shirts and pants.

You've been frustrated asking: "Hey, will somebody just give me a fast, easy and simple to use bigger yield getting nutrient flowering system?"

Advanced Nutrients listened to you. The answer is yes. You'll find out how in just a minute.

But first a little about the charts, schedules and programs. Heck we invented the things to begin with, and since then all the other nutrient companies have got in line and followed like a shadow with their own feed charts and take on things. This whole nutrient thing has gotten out of hand, and a whole lot more complicated. We never intended for it to get this way. We had created an industry wide monster and had to make things right... because there had to be an easier way.

Now You Have the Nutrient Flowering System You Asked For

When we decided to create the world's easiest to use and most powerful flowering system, it was important that we get it right. So we interviewed hundreds of growers worldwide, just like you, to find out exactly what you wanted from your hydroponics nutrients.

And guess what? It was back to work we went. We gathered up the team of 12 scientists with their army of research assistants and "worked our butts off" over the next 33 months, reworking everything from the ground up and made it purpose-built to give you a continuously bigger yield producing punch than ever before, streamlining your workload. That's why you'll certainly appreciate the Bigger Yields Flowering System. It takes all the guesswork out of you getting the biggest yields, no matter what level of gardener you are.

Think about it, a Flowering System that will give you...

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- New, Powerful, Flower Fattening Formulas
- Formulas That Work Together for Your Biggest Yields
- A Driving Push that Flowers Your Plants to Their True Genetic Potential
- pH-PPM Perfect - No More Balancing Your pH and PPM Ever Again!

pH-PPM PERFECT
No More pH & PPM Metering or Adjusting, it's All Done for You

Look, the system automatically takes care of your entire plant

Finally Someone Who Gets It

Never being one to get in over my head, I've always kind of stuck with a base nutrients two-part and a bloom booster. My friend said I'd see bigger harvests using your System. But I was scared it would make more work for me. But when I looked at your System I realized you guys really understand what it's all about and have it all figured out. So I got two Bigger Yields Bundles (Hobbyist and Expert) and put them together like the chart says, along with the new Sensi base. Not only was mixing this stuff easier than ever, but I didn't have to pH it and I also found that the plants grew quicker and the bloom time was shorter but a larger harvest. Your system worked better than expected. Much thanks for getting it right.

Mark, from Gainesville, Florida

From Hamburger Millionaires to Bigger-Harvest Hydroponics... How You Can Use the Time-Proven-Power of a "System" and Get Your Bigger Yields Advantage "Right Now"

Ever wondered why so many savvy people spend millions of dollars to buy a McDonald's franchise?

I realize you're probably saying to yourself right now, what the heck does this have to do with me getting bigger yields? Just hang with me for a few moments and I will explain it all.

It's because the McDonald's system is powerful, consistent, simple and so comprehensively effective that owning a McDonald's franchise is literally a license to print your own money.

And that's not all, even first-time business owners make big bucks running the McDonald's system. Because the entire well being of your business has been thought out and everything your business needs is taken care of for you. All you do is follow the system and harvest your big piles of cash.

What does all this have to do with you? The Bigger Yields Flowering System provides a rock solid complete, consistent and comprehensive system that automatically takes care of your entire plant for you at every stage of growth, from its roots to the very top of your flowers and everything in between.

Stop and imagine what it would mean to you to walk into your garden and see the kind of crops you've always known were possible and always dreamed of.

Big fat juicy harvests with towering buds, so sweet and succulent that when other growers see pictures of your crop they say "damn what the heck did you do" and when your friends and customers look at your finished product and take those long intoxicating smells... they'll have that look on their face, which says it all.

New Breakth



5 in 1

Sensi Bloom and Grow-Micro-Bloom level with these extra products to g

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Big Breakthrough "Brain-Dead-Simple" Flowering System Throw Away Your Pens and Meters Forever!

Announcing:
The Bigger Yields Flowering System™

Here's how the Bigger Yields System will continually deliver your dream harvests...

Amped-Up Base Nutrients, Special Supplements and the Simplest Bigger Yields Flowering System Ever Devised!

You told us you wanted to spend even less time and fuss in your garden while getting still bigger harvest rewards. So we developed the System to have a bold and broader range of nutrient availability than you'll ever find with any other company's nutrients.

How did we do it? The Bigger Yields Flowering System nutrients are coated with multiple sources of unique and powerful compounds, causing your Macro and Micro nutrients to become powerful microscopic magnets attracted to your plant's roots.

These coatings give your nutrients tremendous flexibility to work at an extremely wide pH range. Opening up your plants cellular floodgates to rapidly inhale everything you feed them so they steadily make larger and fatter flowers to give you branch-bending-bounties.

Imagine Never Again Having to Check and Adjust pH

Breakthrough Formula



Now contain & combine at a higher level than ever before. Give you even Bigger Yields Guaranteed

Let me be a bit more specific... the Bigger Yields Flowering System has a proprietary technology called pH-PPM Perfect that automatically puts your nutrient solutions pH and PPM into the "sweet spot" for optimum growth and flowering, and it's built into every growing level of the Bigger Yields Flowering System eliminating you having to fool with pesky pH meters and PPM calculations.

Here's how easy it is: if the water you use to mix your nutrients has a pH between 4.5 and 8.5 pH (and that's pretty much everyone's water) then you'll never have to balance your pH or for that matter ever add a single drop of pH up or down to your reservoir.

And how about never again having to remember complicated measuring and application data?

Well, we heard you. All the base nutrients have been standardized at 4 ml per liter, so mixing and use is ridiculously easy.

Now get this, all the supplements have been standardized as well. You only need to mix 2 ml per liter. In fact it's this way for all the supplements used in all four of the growing levels: Hobbyist, Expert, Professional and Grand Master with each level "stacking" on top of each other, then you choose your base nutrients, and away you go, that's how the Bigger Yields Flowering System works. Incredibly simple, isn't it?

Who Advanced Nutrients Is NOT For

Our nutrients are certainly not for everyone... only growers who want to see a difference and take their gardens to the next level, growers who want to really increase the quality of their product and get bigger yields. Advanced Nutrients is not the right fit for those people who...

• Are Looking for Cheap Nutrients and Could Care less What Goes Into Them – Advanced Nutrients cost more because you get more: High quality and bigger yields, but in order for us to give you that it cost us a lot of money. We use premium ingredients and run a full blown research staff of 12 PhD's, full tech support and a 100% guarantee on all products.

• Don't Take Pride in Their Crop – If they don't care about the quality, appearance or outcome of their harvest. They can look elsewhere. Because everything Advanced Nutrients does is all about our pride in carefully crafting products for growers that do just that: Create off-the-chart quality, pristine appearance and bigger yields.

• Don't Have Compassion For Their Fellow Man – If they're not willing to give a helping hand to people who are in need of their assistance or expertise. Then listen up: Advanced Nutrients gives all the time. We've donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in nutrients and equipment over the years. Obviously giving is the right thing to do.

No Dinosaurs Allowed: Unleash Your Plant's True Genetic Potential and Get 9 Products for the Price of 4

It's now really easy for you to realize the fact that your grower friends are stuck in the "old hard way," formulas and charts that, well... qualify as dinosaurs. Not you though because you'll be using new state-of-the-art flowering technologies and five brand new hydroponics industry breakthroughs that like a world class athlete, will push your plants to their true genetic potential.

Even Better, you'll save more money with the new Bigger Yields Flowering System when you buy the all new 5 in 1 Sensi Bloom or Grow-Micro-Bloom base nutrients along with the Hobbyist Bigger Yields Bundle™. Because it's, exactly the same as getting 9 products for the price of 4. Sensi Bloom or Grow-Micro-Bloom base nutrients now contains and combines at a higher level the award winning products H-2, F-1, Wet Betty and a special blend of Amino Acids when you buy the Hobbyist Bigger Yields Bundle which contains Big Bud, Voodoo Juice, B-52 and Overdrive, you'll also get the Overdrive for Free.

Actually we do mean it when we say award winning products and breakthrough technologies. Let me explain, and these are absolute facts, we're not trying to brag or anything like that (well ok...maybe just a little), and because you're probably not aware of these facts, and of course they're important ones when you're buying the Bigger Yields Flowering System.

• Advanced Nutrients has won every major growing competition in the world, no other nutrient company has even come close to our continuing string of victories.

• Advanced Nutrients is the hydroponics industry's "technologies leader" responsible to date for 31 technological breakthroughs and patents that has elevated the science of hydroponics for the entire industry and made your growing easier and more profitable, including the five new pioneering technologies employed now in the Bigger Yields Flowering System.

Anyway, back to what I was saying, here's the deal. At the Expert Grower Level you get Final Phase for Free. The Professional Grower Level gives you SensiZym for free and at the Grand Master Grower Level you'll receive your Rhino Skin absolutely free.

So go right now and ask the store owner or one of the staff to show you the Bigger Yields Flowering System and remember to ask for your Bigger Yields Bundle. As you have clearly discovered getting bigger yields and bigger savings has never been so easy. Enjoy.

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The new Green Door Collective operates precariously in San Diego as the county works to ban all dispensaries.

SIEGE ON

California's medical-marijuana drama spins on and on. Despite a law that's been on the books for 13 years, patients and providers must still fight daily for their rights.

Story & photos by Dan Skye

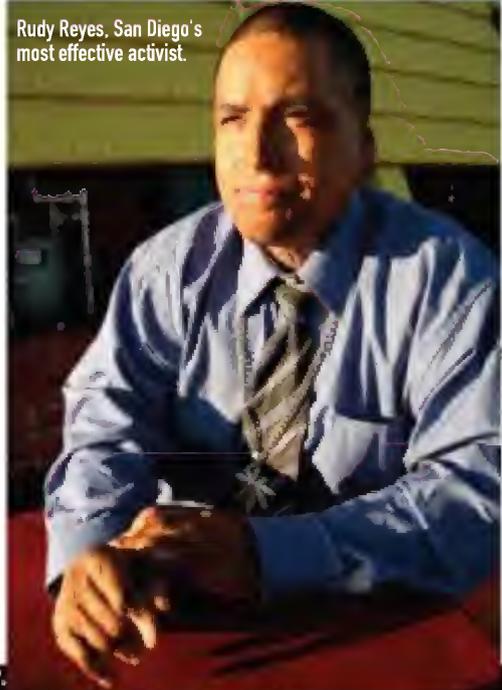
A California wildfire can sweep across acres in mere seconds. After a hot, rainless summer, the land can ignite in an instant, especially when the broiling Santa Ana winds blow out of the mountains in autumn.

The Cedar Fire was the largest wildland fire in California's history. The dollar loss was estimated at \$204 million. Throughout the county, the wildfire scorched 280,278 acres, destroyed 2,820 buildings and killed 15 people.

Rudy Reyes was there. In fact, for his actions, the local press dubbed him the "hero of the Cedar Fire." As a wall of flame raced toward his Wildcat Canyon home, Rudy rushed to evacuate his family. He got them out in time, but Rudy wasn't as lucky as his parents and brother.

His car wouldn't start. To save himself, he was forced to sprint through the fire, covering his face with his hands as he ran.

Our fear of fire is primal: No vision of personal destruction is more frightening than that of our own incineration. In Rudy's case, more than 65 percent of his body was burned. He's undergone scores of skin-graft operations and has required corrective surgery to save his sight. Part of his left ear was burned off and his hands are disfigured, the result of tissue and bone becoming fused in the flames.



Rudy Reyes, San Diego's most effective activist.

Jeff Joseph, a week before the DEA raided Organica, his highly successful dispensary in Marina del Rey.



SOCCAL



Cannisters of medicine offer patients real relief.

But Rudy Reyes calls the experience transformational. During his long convalescence, he was prescribed pharmaceuticals, including OxyContin, but only cannabis effectively alleviated his pain. "It was a spiritual awakening in many ways," he says. "The time I spent alone with my thoughts changed me. Life changed for me. Little things didn't matter. I just knew that I never wanted anyone to suffer needlessly."

Six years after the Cedar Fire, Rudy Reyes has become the unofficial spokesman and spear-carrier for the medical-marijuana community in San Diego—and perhaps there is no one better suited.

"You know, I'm not as bad-looking as some burn victims," he says disarmingly. "People don't recoil when they see me. It's al-

most a blessing—people see my injuries and they feel compassion." He adds with a laugh: "I'm a very difficult person to argue with when it comes to the benefits of medical marijuana. Who would want to take me on?"

Ever since the passage of Prop. 215 in 1996, San Diego County has been virulently resistant to the use of medical marijuana. Dominated for years by ultra-conservative politicians, the county has consistently harassed and raided dispensaries. At present, there are only 16 dispensaries operating in the city of San Diego itself, plus one more within the county limits. But the county has already imposed two moratoriums on new dispensaries, and the city just added a new one.

For Rudy, this is yet more proof that the will of the people far exceeds the stunted vi-

Hillcrest Compassion Care in San Diego welcomes patients—for now.



SIEGE ON SoCAL



'The DEA is the Blackwater of the US government. What other government agency is permitted to behave like this?'

Joseph relaxes at Organica's patient-run outdoor garden of medicine prior to the DEA raid.

sion of lawmakers. In late July, at public hearings dominated by cannabis supporters, a task force was finally approved by the San Diego City Council to study the issue. Rudy will serve, if not lead, that committee.

It's progress of a kind: The dispensaries have been operating for years, albeit quietly, and city politicians—unlike their counterparts on the county level—seem to recognize that many of their constituents derive relief from cannabis use. But in keeping with San Diego's one-step-forward/two-steps-back approach, just two weeks after the approval of the task force, the county Board of Supervisors voted to temporarily shut down every dispensary in San Diego County's unincorporated neighborhoods.

"We expected this," Rudy says. "They're going to try and use zoning laws to ban dispensaries. San Diego is just one more hot spot in this battle to allow people safe access to their medicine. It's now up to us to sue the county supervisors."

A 45-day moratorium on new dispensaries was also enacted so that county officials could create new laws regarding their operation. If county officials fail to act within that time—which is highly likely—they can arbitrarily extend the moratorium.

"Basically, the governments here don't know what to do, have no plan, and don't know how to handle the issue," Rudy says. "It's up to us to show them the way."

Nowhere has this been more evident than in the city of Los Angeles, where local officials have thoroughly fumbled the ball.

TREMORS IN LA

Historically, the activists of Northern California have been the pioneers of the state's med-pot movement. Led by Dennis Peron, who also helped to create Prop. 215, the San Francisco Compassion Club was founded in 1994, two years before the bill's passage. Throughout the remainder of the decade, the Bay Area led the way in helping patients to acquire their cannabis medicine safely. Over the past five years, San Francisco and Oakland have created strict guidelines for the operation of dispensaries, and a fairly successful system now seems to be in place. In July, Oakland voters actually passed the nation's first medical-marijuana business tax.

Northern California activists also introduced dispensaries into the Los Angeles area, most notably the highly successful Compassionate Caregivers dispensary (commonly known as the "Yellow House") in West Hollywood. Although the DEA shut it down in 2005, many more quietly moved in to fill the void.

By 2007, 187 dispensaries had opened in LA. City officials then imposed a moratorium to prevent further proliferation; they also promised to create regulations governing their operation. However, the moratorium had a loophole: Dispensaries that opened past the deadline could file for a "hardship" exemption.

These exemptions covered a wide variety of circumstances—everything from a lack of awareness regarding the proper permits to obtain, to having plans already underway to open a shop

when the moratorium was imposed, to the fact that the Feds were targeting California dispensaries in violation of state law. This situation continued until June of 2009, when, acutely aware that over 500 dispensaries had opened up since the moratorium, the city decided to take action.

Despite the fact that it still hadn't formulated the promised guidelines for the operation of dispensaries—or even adequately defined "hardships" under the exemption clause to begin with—the city's Planning and Land Use Management Commission began hearing and systematically denying the "hardship" appeals in June. Its goal seems to be to pare back the existing number of dispensaries to the original 187 that were in place at the time the moratorium was first imposed.

"They're so clueless," says one dispensary owner. "They're fining these clubs for noncompliance as a means to raise revenue." And if the dispensaries don't "comply"—meaning close—"the fines will double and triple and quadruple. They can't even see the simple fact that medical clubs will provide far more tax revenue than closing them ever will."

Jeff Joseph, the owner of Organica, a dispensary in Marina del Rey, points out: "The moratorium was only supposed to last one year, but they extended it—now it's being extended to 2010. The city has completely let down the original clubs by not writing guidelines. It's violated its own moratorium and can't even define it properly."

The government's inability to address the issue hasn't detracted from its capacity to act



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CANNABIS CANCER, NOT SO FAST...



Cannabis medicine does not cause cancer, despite a new California EPA warning.

Environmental regulators in California have added marijuana smoke to the state's growing list of cancer-causing chemicals. Under state law, the governor's office is required to publish a list of substances that have been determined by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency, to be "known ... to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity."

By statute, products containing certain designated chemicals may be required to carry warning labels. Business establishments with 10 or more employees are expected to post signs indicating whether there is a likelihood that an individual may be exposed to such agents while on the premises.

So how will the California EPA's determination—which doesn't officially take effect until June 2010—impact the state's hundreds of medical-marijuana dispensaries? Quite possibly, not at all.

Under the EPA's ruling, only marijuana smoke—not cannabis itself—is a designated carcinogen. As a result, it remains unclear whether baggies of medical pot will be required to carry any sort of additional warning labels under state law. Furthermore, since very few dispensaries allow smoking on the premises—California already enforces some of the strictest public-smoking bans in the nation—it is unlikely that most, if any, cannabusinesses will be significantly affected.

As for the far bigger question—does smoking marijuana cause cancer?—that issue remains as contentious as ever, despite the EPA's designation. According to the state's review, there is "limited" evidence "suggestive" that marijuana-smoke exposure may be associated with an increased cancer risk in humans. However, virtually all of the EPA's evidence was based on the "similarities in chemical composition and in toxicological activity between marijuana smoke and tobacco smoke," rather than upon any empirical studies indicating a causal link between pot smoking and human cancers.

In fact, state regulators acknowledged that the largest population case-control study ever conducted to assess the use of marijuana and cancer risk did not find a positive association between cannabis smoking and the disease—even among individuals who reported smoking over 22,000 joints during their lifetime.

Perhaps someone ought to inform the California EPA.—Paul Armentano



Medical patients can purchase plants and clones at many dispensaries.

'The political will is totally opposite of the people's will.'

maliciously. On August 12, the DEA and city cops raided Organica and Jeff Joseph's home. (Feds also raided the Overland Gardens Collective in West Los Angeles.)

The raid sent shock waves through the SoCal medical-marijuana community. US Attorney General Eric Holder had promised at a February press conference that the Justice Department would no longer target medical-marijuana dispensaries that were legally established under state law. Organica is one of these: It was among the original 187 medical clubs that opened prior to the 2007 moratorium and was not being targeted for forced closure. The dispensary had followed California state law to the letter, and Joseph was compliant with all of his tax responsibilities. Moreover, there had never been a whiff of impropriety of any kind at Organica. Joseph thought that he was "completely legal." He was mistaken.

The DEA engaged in its usual thuggery, smashing merchandise and store fixtures and utterly terrifying employees. At Joseph's home, his dog was shot—twice—leading him to remark bitterly: "The DEA is the Blackwater of the US government. What other government agency is permitted to behave like this?"

In the end, Joseph was charged with possession of 50 pounds of marijuana, all of which can be legally accounted for under the dispensary's provider program, which allows patients to designate Organica as their grower. Joseph has no choice now but to sue the government for its actions.

"I blame the state and the city for this," he says. "They have let everyone down. They've failed to come up with guidelines for dispensaries. We've been waiting for them, we've been asking for them, but they have failed us. They never defined 'compliance,' but I have followed every possible guideline. I have operated openly and honestly. What made us a target?"

Without question, the Organica raid further erodes the credibility of the Obama administration on pot issues. Joseph has been calling the White House continuously for a clear explanation of their policy toward medical marijuana—but, not surprisingly, one has not been forthcoming.

These days, Joseph's disgust knows no bounds. As a long-time hemp and marijuana activist, he sees nothing new in the government's attitude. "It's the same Drug War mentality: 'We don't like potheads. We don't want pot stores in our neighborhoods,'" he continues. "The political will is totally opposite of the people's will. The people's will is: 'We have a right to our medicine, and we want it to be as accessible as a Walgreen's.' But the political will is: 'We want money. We want to control. If we put a control ordinance out, we're going to enforce it.'"

Joseph has every intention of holding onto his property and weathering this storm. "It's about civil rights," he says. "If this case can help make



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Sarah, Miss HT 2007, now works in the LA canna-business community.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

A former Miss HIGH TIMES becomes a budtender.

After graduating college this past June, I decided to move out to the Wild Weedy West. Call it destiny, but I landed a dream job working as a budtender at Holistic Harvest, a new medical-marijuana dispensary in Los Angeles. Four months later, I'm still there—helping run the place, holding business meetings with vendors to bring in the best meds, and caring for people who are truly *my* patients.

I have to know each strain inside and out—type, *sativa* or *indica*, THC percentage, potency, effects, even what activities are best suited for it. But the awesome patients make my job easy. The most memorable one to me is the cool one-legged man—asthmatic, diabetic and 80 percent blind—who lives across town. One day his friend took him to a different dispensary that wasn't very caring or friendly, so he took three buses trying to get to HH. He ended up lost, but we came and picked him up from downtown. It's a great feeling knowing that a patient went out of his way just to get his meds from us. Many of our patients travel up to 30 minutes to come to our shop!

Unfortunately, the job isn't all heart-warming tales of helping people in need: We still face issues with the law. A while back, the Los Angeles City Council imposed a moratorium on new dispensaries until it could write up regulations governing them. Even so, during this time, over 500 new dispensaries were allowed to open provisionally, as long as they registered for a "hardship" exemption.

After two years, the council's long-promised regulations are still not finished—but that didn't stop it from holding a special hearing in late June to determine the fate of 29 exemption applications, including Holistic Harvest's. I testified on behalf of HH—but, sadly, by the end of the hearing, *all* of the applications were denied and the dispensaries ordered to shut down. I believe my parting words to the City Council were: "When you need medical marijuana to help you sleep at night, feel free to come to Holistic Harvest and I'll help you out."—Sarah Newton

cannabis legal, then I'll deal fine with what's ahead."

But it still looks like an uphill struggle. Joseph points out that in LA, even legal dispensaries "deal with problems that no other commercial enterprise seems to encounter. We deal with inadequate police protection, and criminals seem to know that."

So the question remains: What will happen in LA if over 500 dispensaries are forced to shut their doors? How well will the public be served then, when the surviving dispensaries are overrun with new patients and are unable to take care of them properly?

The owner of a prominent dispensary located in the heart of downtown LA sums things up simply: In that case, he says, "the black market will thrive."

Other Southern California municipalities are also wrestling—poorly—with medical marijuana. A number of

Dispensary doobies for sale



cities in Orange County have imposed outright bans on dispensaries or are considering them. The Anaheim City Council unanimously approved an initial ban on dispensaries in July. But the Qualified Patients Association filed a lawsuit against the city, challenging the law on the grounds that it conflicts with state law and violates the civil rights of disabled people.

What's truly remarkable is that, throughout all of California's turmoil, it's been the dogged determination of the medical-marijuana community that has educated and reeducated lawmakers, guiding them toward sane, workable programs. And it's also been the cannabis industry that has screamed for taxation, awakening politicians and the public alike to the untapped revenue streams that both medicinal and recreational use represent.

And America is listening. America is also changing, especially when it comes to mores regarding marijuana use. When Prop. 215 passed in 1996, 56 percent of California's voters approved it. Recently, the Oakland med-pot tax was passed with 87 percent approval. Statewide, 78 percent of Californians favor complete legalization these days.

Nationwide, only 46 percent of Americans support legalization. But when it comes to medical marijuana, 56 percent now favor its use—the same as the percentage of California voters back in '96.

So the foundation for hope remains strong—but the merry-go-round hasn't stopped yet. ✨

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2009 GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

Compiled by the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department and our global correspondents.

Last year, we brought back our annual Global Harvest Report, and it received high praise from readers worldwide. Thanks to the interesting info and excellent detail, the report touched off a renewed sense of urgency among growers everywhere. A global resurrection of interest in the well-being of the planet's gene pool has led to a spike in the circulation of genetics. In 2009, we're continuing the trend and have asked our correspondents around the globe to update their findings for our 2009 Global Harvest Report. We also ask you, our faithful readers and committed growers, to keep up the good work!

CALIFORNIA

With the election of Barack Obama shortly after last year's harvest, 2009 promises to deliver a mega-bounty for California, which should be reaping the benefits of a much more benevolent White House. And with the loosening of federal crackdowns and the prospect of legitimizing and taxing medical marijuana to stimulate California's struggling economy, we're expecting great things this fall from our West Coast wonderland.

But let's not jump the gun: There may not be as much of a need this year to wait until the traditional fall harvests, as 2009 marks another turning point for the biggest pot-producing state in the US. This year is a landmark occasion, as California's growers are boldly proclaiming: "Enough with this once-a-year harvest—we need to supply the whole country with more weed!" The result



Cold frame greenhouses like this outdoor Cali operation can be easily converted for use with light deprivation techniques. All you need is large, dark covers that are light-tight to regulate daytime hours and induce flowering on your schedule.

has been a huge increase in greenhouse farming, whereby growers can deploy light-deprivation techniques in order to get an extra harvest or two each year. In fact, by late July, the first fruits of these harvests had started to make their way around the US.

Still, this doesn't mean that Californians have moved away from what they do best. Many West Coast growers have enjoyed their biggest harvests ever in 2009, utilizing large tracts of farmland and raising tree-sized plants that grow well beyond the three-month cycles of indoor gardens. Adding to their success, California growers are tapping into the plethora of excellent genotypes found up and down the coast. While Diesel reigns supreme back east, Kush is king out west. Super phenos of the OG and Bubba Kush bring in the best prices of

all the Cali buds and rank among the best strains in the world. Other California faves embrace every variety of purple, such as Purple Urkel, Grape Ape and Granddaddy Purps.

There has also been a re-emergence of classic old-school strains that collectors have kept hidden (but alive!) for generations. These strains are resurfacing in both hybrid and, in some cases, their original form. Strains such as Goo, White Widow and Cali Mist have been most prevalent, especially in the northern parts of the state. Other landrace strains have also popped up, most of which are still being stabilized via backcrossing in order to firm up the genetics before they can be used in hybridization projects. Original Afghani and Burmese lineages are tops in this regard, and have many breeders excited about what's to come in 2010 and beyond.—Nico Escondido



A fresh batch of Strawberry Cough grown locally in the NYC.

NEW YORK

As usual, the anchor of the East Coast is still toiling with its own medical-marijuana roadblocks, but that hasn't stopped our growers from keeping up their exemplary work. While West Coast states are largely about quantity and commercial operations (it's a lot easier to grow big when you've got Prop. 215 on your side), New York has remained true to its ideals on quality.

With the possible exception of California, the state still boasts the best genetics and growers in the United States. Fabled strains such as Chem Dog and Sour Diesel are still being grown at the same level they were five or even 10 years ago—which is to say, absolutely superbly. With Chem Dog (the grower) keeping close tabs on his genetics—spawned from the legendary family of the "Eight Magic Beans"—New York, New England and even parts of New Jersey right on down to Philadelphia are enjoying harvest after harvest of top-notch indoor herb.

Still, not everything out east is grown inside. Guerrilla growing has gained a lot of popularity among professionals and hobbyists alike. With an unusual *extreme* slowing of ganja shipments from the east coast of Canada during the summer months of 2009, many growers, dealers and smokers have turned to plotting their own outdoor patches around the tristate area. And their efforts have been largely rewarded, as New York growers spare no expense, buying tons of clones with exceptional genetics to risk growing in the hills, mountains and, yes, even state forests!

A welcome surprise for East Coast growers this year has been the unusual abundance of rain, ensuring properly watered crops and less manual labor for outdoor cultivators. Crops have been planted as far east as the posh Hamptons vacation spots. A big outdoor favorite in New York this year (and every year, for that matter) is Kyle Kushman's original Strawberry Cough. Outdoors, the Cough's *sativa* heritage can really boom, giving this Haze hybrid extra vigor. Pounds of outdoor Cough, when trimmed and cured properly, can garner growers up to \$6,000 per.

All in all, 2009 has been an interesting year in New York City. Manhattan alone has seen a lot of variation in strains, quality and quantity. One thing is certain, however: Each year, from November through January, New York City is ganja central. There's never any shortage here—from connoisseurs to patients to old heads to newbies, there is something for everyone. The only question, as always: How much are you willing to pay?—Nico Escondido



A Cannabis Cup winner, Arjan's Haze is a favorite throughout Europe.

ITALY

Italians are among the top cannabis consumers in Europe (an estimated 30% of the population uses marijuana—more than double the rate in Holland). Still, the cannabis situation in Italy always depends on the reigning government coalition, which changes more frequently than in any other European nation. When a left-wing coalition is in power, cannabis is a low priority for law enforcement, but when the right-wing parties take over, such as at the present time, the crackdown on growers and tokers becomes a high priority.

These days, it's quite common for smokers to grow a few plants for their personal use.

Many Italian growers travel to Amsterdam regularly to update their strains, grow techniques and equipment. More than 200 grow shops are now located all over the Italian peninsula, selling cannabis seeds and the equipment necessary to grow them. Cannabis seeds are actually legal in Italy; it's only after germination that they become illegal. This gap in the law (similar to the situation in Spain, Switzerland and the UK) allows Italians to grow some pretty good pot, both indoors and out. The climate—especially in the south of the country—is a grower's dream: long, hot, dry summers with regular rain showers, mild winds and fertile land.

Since the late 1990s, an indoor grow scene has appeared in Italy, beginning in the big cities and then spreading to the rural areas. As is generally the case, the large international cities here are much more liberal and tolerant than the smaller towns: Rome, Bologna, Milan, Turin and Florence tend to be pretty easygoing about smoking pot, while the towns and villages in the countryside tend to be much stricter.

Weed is cultivated outdoors throughout the southern parts of Italy in large operations under the control of organized crime. The only Italian cannabis landrace originates from the Calabria region, and it's known as Calabria Rosso—very similar to Orange Bud in appearance, yet a bit more *sativa*-like in its taste and effects. But the volume of weed being sold and consumed in the country is far less than the imported hash. This is purely the result of economies of scale: A container full of hash brings in a lot more money than the same volume of weed.

Prices for hashish vary from €5 per gram for the lowest-grade Moroccan Blond up to €15 per gram for the highest-grade Indian *charas* or some nice Nepalese hash. Weed can range from €4 per gram for low-grade outdoor (either local or imported from Albania) to €20 per gram for the highest-grade Dutch import (such as Arjan's Haze, a 2006 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup winner).

—Franco, Green House Seed Company, Amsterdam

Italians growers usually have green thumbs...



Med Pot Warning: What Are You Really Smoking?

By Alex Allan Anderson

Are you aware of what you're really smoking? Can you recall a time when you took a hit of what you thought was going to be some great smoke only to find yourself choking and gagging? Even worse it was hard to keep lit, tasted terrible, irritated your throat and lungs and produced a heavy black ash.

Licensed medical cannabis patient and grower Gino Yordanov offers you an insider's look at the direct causes of poor-quality medicine. That's because Yordanov is co-founder of Advanced Nutrients, the only hydroponics company that's logged nearly a decade of cannabis growing research into plant quality, yields and potency.

"I always wondered what caused that stinging harshness in my throat when I medicated myself with buds I purchased," Yordanov recalls. "So I had my team of scientists find out the causes. And here's what they discovered..."

You're Smoking Too Much Phosphorus

One of the main causes of all that hacking and coughing is plants are grown with too much phosphorus. Another critical finding that made a significant difference was the particular forms of phosphorus and nutrient ratio's used to grow with.

Even more troubling, what are the rest of the fertilizer's essential ingredients "cut" with? Take calcium nitrate for instance it's made up of 15.5% nitrogen and 11% calcium, so what's the other 73.5% made out of?

Well, as it turns out, actually it matters a lot, especially the composition and purity level of that "cut."

"When calcium nitrate is not analyzed or sourced incorrectly, the remaining percentage of filler material slows crop growth and adds harshness to your buds. And calcium nitrate is just one example – what about all the other ingredients in a nutrient? Obviously it all matters.

But here's the most important part... the correct ratios of a cannabis fertilizer's macro and micro nutrients make a huge difference in your medicine's smoothness. Plus it's a known fact that the further you move away from feeding cannabis plants their ideal nutrient ratios, potency and yield rapidly deteriorate.

You see, cannabis uses a small amount of phosphorus during flowering, what it really loves to use is nitrogen and potassium. We discovered this because our scientists have taken thousands of weekly tissue samples from buds, stems, leaves and roots of many varieties using gas chromatography analysis throughout all phases of cannabis growth.

Nutrient Companies Are Harming You

And to make matters worse, nutrient companies are over-

providing phosphorus in hydroponic bloom fertilizers. And to compound problems, they use high levels of ingredients like mono ammonium phosphate (MAP) or diammonium phosphate (DAP). These harshness culprits will make you cough a lung out. Really, it's that bad. Hey, I realize this may sound a bit self serving but obviously I care about what patients and I are smoking and of course the facts are the facts."



Licensed Medical Cannabis Grower and Patient Gino Yordnaov gives you an insider's look on how you'll absolutely ensure you're getting safer, smoother and more potent medicine.

The good news is Yordanov's researchers found combinations of specialized nutrients, plant and mineral extracts, root enhancers, vitamins, inoculants, growth and bloom co-factors that consistently produce bigger yields, higher amounts of THC, sweeter smelling aromatic compounds and tastier smoother smoking buds.

In fact, when Advanced Nutrients formulas were tested by Dr. Mahmoud A. ElSohly, (Director of the US government's marijuana research farm at the University of Mississippi), ElSohly discovered that Advanced Nutrients increased THC percentages by 40% while

increasing plant and bud biomass by 21% compared to the formulations he was using. *In the interest of full disclosure, Dr ElSohly is now an Advanced Nutrients customer.*

And Yordanov requires his company's scientists and quality control technicians to continually upgrade formulations to produce the absolute maximum bud weight and quality.

Your Only Clean Safe Source For Pure Grown Medicine

As the only hydroponics nutrients company founder who is also an officially-government licensed medical cannabis patient and grower, Yordanov pledges it's his solemn duty to guarantee Advanced Nutrients produces clean, convenient, yield-boosting formulas that ensure patients' health and safety.

"I want the finest medicine for myself and all patients. Whether you purchase from a medical cannabis dispensary or grow your own, clearly this is so important to your health that you should insist your buds were grown with hydroponics nutrients designed and tested specifically for medical cannabis."

Ask If Your Dispensary Medicine Was Grown With Advanced Nutrients...

- Because you want your buds to taste great, and you want your buds grown with fertilizers that contain superior sources of phosphorus and contain top quality, analyzed ingredients that don't contain any poor quality filler.
- Because you want your buds to have the highest potency genetically possible and grown with the correct fertilizer ratios of macro and micronutrients.
- Because you want the safest, smoothest smoke and the quality of your health demands it.

Banana Kush, another unique strain out of CO.



One of many typical pot patches grown in the mountains of Vancouver Island. Here, Bonkers from Next Generation Seed Company.



COLORADO

Since last year's report, the Colorado medical scene has done nothing less than explode throughout the state. The amount of medical patients has almost doubled, and the number of dispensaries has almost tripled. This makes it easier for every stoner in the state to score some primo pot.

Colorado is also the leading state in the fight for SAFER laws, which promote stronger law enforcement for drinking violations over marijuana violations. Actually, in Denver County, the possession of an ounce of marijuana or less is merely a ticketable offense, equivalent to a parking violation. Any state with laws like that definitely deserves to be back in our Global Harvest Report.

And with more legal patients comes more medical marijuana. Large indoor gardens and greenhouses have become increasingly popular thanks to Amendment 20, which allows medical clubs and caregivers to grow marijuana and supply their patients with high-end medical herb. Also, more patients are taking matters in hand to provide for themselves and their friends, thereby turning our neighborhoods into much nicer-smelling places.

Great strains that you'll find at some of the better medical clubs like Nature's Medicine include Banana Kush, Chem Dog (the original phenotype, labeled "D") and the old-school favorite AK-47. Also, strains like LA Confidential, Choco Chunk and Grape Ape have started to become more abundant. And thanks to new strains like PTK (Peach Tree Kush) and Pink Satin, the Colorado flavor scene is holding its own.

Even with the crazy weather this summer, which has included numerous hailstorms and tornados, Colorado has been able to produce some super-flavorful strains. That, in turn, helps keep the whole region thriving, including the surrounding states. Weed lovers from Kansas, Wyoming and Utah will also reap the benefits from Colorado's great 2009 harvest, and we're happy to have them onboard!

Tune in next year to see what crazy new flaves have come out of the CO. And don't forget that come harvest time, it will have been one year since Phish played Red Rocks, for the first time in 14 years—and we all know what that means! There is always some excellent genetics swapping going on during their tours—especially when friends from both coasts come together for the four-day event!—Big Croppa

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Up in Canada, the season started with the usual last show of bravado by winter in refusing to relinquish its domain, but, as always, the warm weather eventually prevailed. The funny thing about Canada is that our vast geographical area and variety of climate zones pretty well guarantee that somebody *somewhere* is enjoying the perfect conditions for growing our country's unofficial national plant—cannabis!

As most of us already know, all it takes to grow great outdoor bud is good genetics, decent soil, plenty of sunshine and water, and, of course, the blessings of the weather gods. This year in British Columbia, we were granted all of the above: Spring pushed her head up out of the snow and brought the kind of warm weather that had serious growers starting seeds and setting up cold frames earlier than usual this year.

The only thing that slowed anyone's enthusiasm for growing marijuana this year was the news floating around that Marc Emery's co-defendants had made a deal to stop fighting extradition and stand before a US judge to be sentenced for their part in the distribution of cannabis seeds. Speculation abounds on the future of Emery's case, and indeed on the future of the cannabis culture here in Western Canada, where a lot of people are watching what happens to the "BC Three," convinced that the decision in their case will be a leading indicator of the way that our government will represent the people's wishes going forward.

But despite the political ramifications of this judicial outcome, this is the year that growers are smiling from ear to ear (and would-be growers are kicking themselves in the ass for not putting down any plants in the great outdoors). The warm spring, which was *perfect* for planting, led to an even warmer summer on Vancouver Island, where the growers were especially blessed: a week of sunshine followed by a couple days of rain, and then more sunshine followed by a bit more rain, and so on.

The cannabis plants grew like, well, weeds, and in early July they did their thing, switching to bud as the pistils started to pop out on the earlier plants, such as "1.3 G," a new early outdoor strain from Vancouver Island Seed Company that has been heavily sown this season. All the fields set up this year just kept growing, thanks in large part to the great weather condi-



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As the summer kept on going and the sunshine kept beating down, the temperatures continued to rise, which was great for the fields and yields. But there was a downside: The forests and rivers started drying out thanks to the heat. Some of these rivers had supplied many outdoor plots with irrigation, leaving growers no choice but to haul in water from further and further away. This meant not only more work, but a greater chance of being noticed!

Another ramification of the forests drying out is that the number (and intensity) of forest fires increased dramatically in the 2009 season. In some instances, there were cases where entire plots were badly burned, and many growers found it difficult—sometimes even impossible—to get to their fields due to the road closures set up as part of the forest-



This outdoor Blueberry was grown along the Georgia Straits in B.C.

protection strategies.

All in all, throughout Canada (and in particular BC and its world-famous pot-growing islands), the yields are way up this year. Starting in mid-September, it became obvious that the yields were not just good but great, and as we worked our way into October, those strains that were still growing were resulting in many multiple-ounce plants being harvested.

This really was a great year to be growing outdoors, whether you were one of BC's large-scale commercial growers, a connoisseur growing on a small scale for the chosen few, or just an everyday pot smoker interested in growing your own to be sure you knew what you're smoking. How could you go wrong in a year like this? It may be hard work, but you get to spend a lot of time in the great outdoors, and it's fun, and the payoff is some of the best weed in the world! —G. from Vancouver Island Seed Company



The Church, one of Green House Seeds most popular strains in Africa and Europe. Great for outdoor growing.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is an amazing mix of cultures, races, climates and landscapes, and one of the most active countries worldwide when it comes to producing large outdoor cannabis crops. Most of the local outdoor weed is actually produced in Swaziland and Lesotho, two small independent countries in the region. But almost all of the weed they produce makes its way to South Africa.

The third-largest-producing area of the region is the Transkei, a vast and wild part of South Africa that used to be a separate state during the apartheid regime. Transkei stretches for a few hundred kilometers south of Durban along the coast. This is where, in the 1960s, the seeds coming from Kerala, India, were crossed with some local landrace *sativas* to create the legendary Durban Poison. (Durban has the largest community of Indians outside of India itself, and most of them like good pot.) Nowadays, the Durban Poison exists in many crosses, re-created using the same mix of Kerala/Transkei genetics, but the original plant has long since been lost in the pages of history.

South African growers have crossed the local *sativa* landraces with many Dutch and American strains and these days are moving their grow operations indoors and into greenhouses. The move to indoor and hydroponics is fueled by the huge demand for super-strong "coffeeshop-style" buds in trendy, wealthy Cape Town and Johannesburg. Strains like Cheese, White Rhino, Blueberry and Kush are now ever-present at most rave parties and generally outsell any outdoor bud.

The local Transkei landraces are quite similar and not among the most potent. Most of them have lengthy internodes, long flowering times and skinny *sativa* buds, with a very mild high and a spicy aroma and taste. The crops are huge, and most of the growers do not remove the males from the fields, resulting in heavily seeded buds.

The price for a gram of Transkei (or "T-kei," as it is known) can vary between five and 10 cents in the Transkei itself, and up to \$2 US in the bars and streets of Cape Town. Prices for indoor hydro are outrageously high compared to outdoor bud: from \$5 US per gram during the winter (May to August) up to \$15 US per gram in the summer (November to March), when the demand is higher and the outdoor crops have already been smoked.

Hashish is present mostly at raves, where it is possible to buy Indian *charas* or Moroccan Pollen for prices between \$10 and \$20 US per gram, depending on the situation. But some of the big outdoor producers are starting to make hash as well, so prices are dropping fast.—Franco, Green House Seed Company, Amsterdam



A typical marijuana field (growing The Church) in South Africa.

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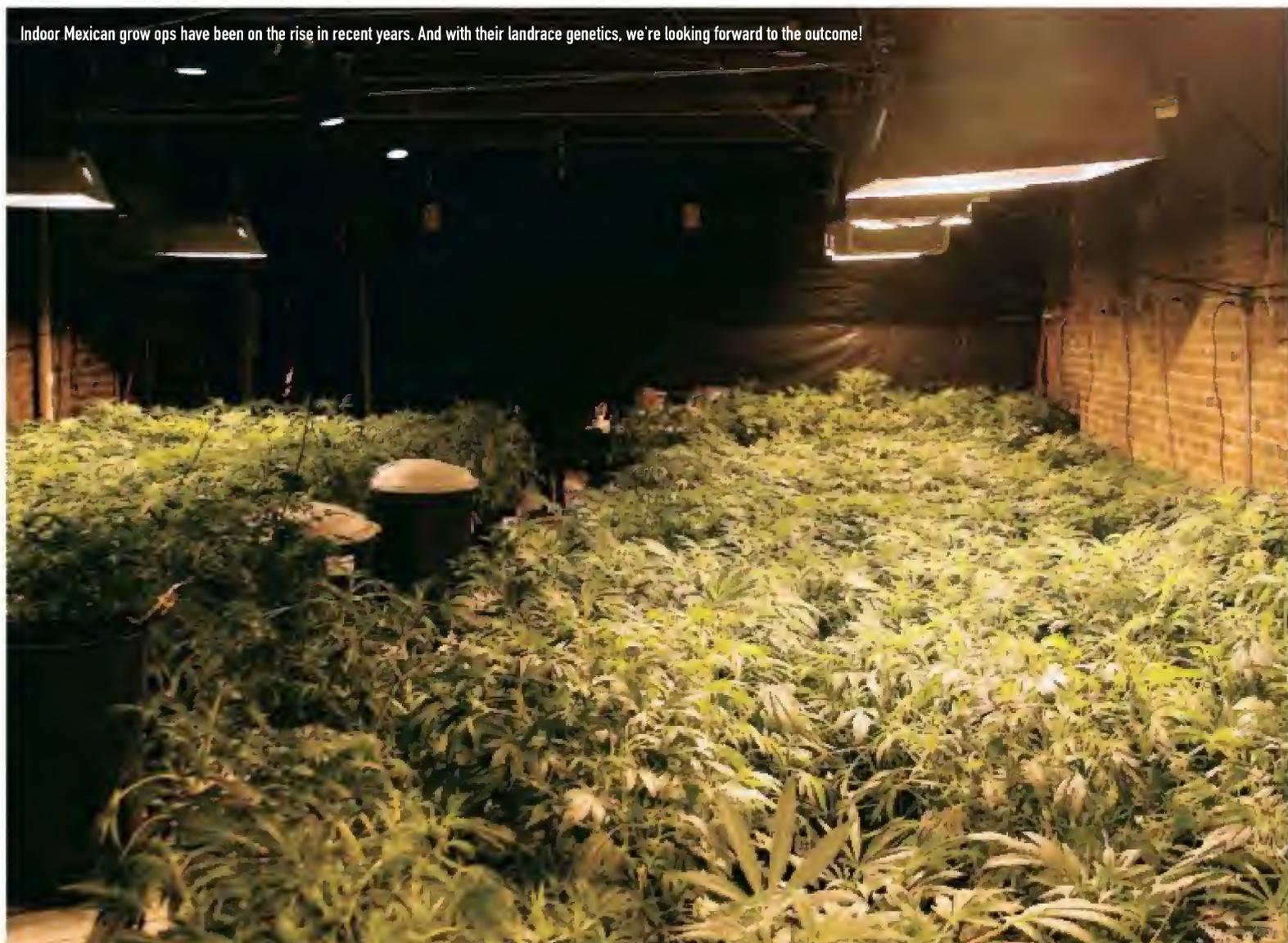
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Indoor Mexican grow ops have been on the rise in recent years. And with their landrace genetics, we're looking forward to the outcome!



MEXICO

Late last year, the Policía Federal (PF), supported by government troops, raided a warehouse the size of a Wal-Mart outside of Guadalajara. The reports on the news channel Televisa showed an immense hydroponic greenhouse with dozens of gas generators running hundreds of 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights over a seemingly endless Sea of Green (SOG) set-up. The extent of the weed couldn't even fit on the television screen! But no arrests were made. This wasn't the only big-time lab found, but it was the most professional we've seen down here, and it was proof that even under the politically repressive regime of Presidente Felipe Calderón, the Mexican weed of this generation continues to flower triumphantly.

Today, thanks to the pressure of competition within the US from Canadian and locally grown California buds, the race to resurrect the Mexican landraces of old is on. These strains were first brought north in 1970, when some of the first American smugglers searched the mountains of the Sierra Madre Oriental for Acapulco Gold. But as luck would have it, the Gold wasn't the only strain they came across: They also found a black, resinous ganja from Morelos, as well as the Verde de Zihuateanejo and the Limon Limon from the exotic mountains of Oaxaca.

Mexican *sativa* bricks are still the predominant form of Mexican ganja available in the US, and with less competition from their Thai and Colom-

bian counterparts (which first appeared on the scene in the late '70s), moving the bricks makes for good business if one can find a cheap way to get them across the border. These days, the West Coast market is still largely supplied by Guadalajara and Durango.

The main difference between the Mexican reefer of old and today's harvest is in the lessons learned. In some cases, these were hard lessons to come by. Back in the day, it was thought that the bigger, blacker seeds indicated maximum maturity and therefore maximum potency. This turned out to be wrong. It was also thought that the winter harvest before Christmas was always the best. This was also wrong: We've since learned that the best harvest is actually in August and September. Harvest time is over by the Day of the Dead, similar to Halloween in the US.

Rumors of something called *sensimilla* (which some even thought meant "one in a million"!) were rife on the transient smugglers' circuit back in those days, but that weed didn't make its way into the hands of American smugglers until much later. Now everyone knows that the best reefer for smoking doesn't have seeds. Unfortunately, it took Mexico a while to arrive at this conclusion. But while today's Mexican strains may still have a few seeds, they're a huge improvement over your parents' pot, where everybody had to roll the seeds out of their weed on a tray. Today's weed, however, is still largely a product of outdoor cultivation, where huge fields line the sides of moun-

tains and maintaining control and sexing entire fields can prove difficult for farmers.

Today, only indoor and greenhouse operations make use of cuttings—and even then, growers who clone are few and far between. In the mid-'80s, Thai smugglers from San Francisco brought sacks of seeds to individual *campesinos*, along with new agricultural techniques and technology. The result was seedless Thai bud, though this imported strain tended to acclimate or transform genetically over time in Mexico's Pacific mountains. Within three or four years, the offspring of the tall Thai plants became shorter, darker, gamier and stronger. This seedless strain continues to be grown and is now called Criollo.

Criollo comprises the majority of the country's commercial harvest. It represents an economical alternative for patients and casual stoners alike: It's perfect for cooking and provides an energetic *sativa* high rather than the sluggish high of the northern *indicas*. Unfortunately, Calderón's government has undertaken an extremely hard-line campaign against the drug subculture, including cannabism. Unnecessary violence and oppression in the form of roadblocks, searches and arrests that would never pass legal or constitutional muster in the United States are being used against farmers and the communities that support them.

So we're still here, neighbor. We're still growing and we're still toking—but unless we get some backup from Barack, it may be a while before you see us again.—Jack Chastaine, Oaxaca

A royal newsletter to all distributors, shops, growers and smokers...

Dear Friends,

I want to thank every single one of you for supporting Green House Seed Company and Coffeeshops during this year 2009. It has been a phenomenal time. For the last 15 years, being the leading Coffeeshop, winning many trophies, hosting celebrities and having the best quality on service, food and cannabis has been a mission in itself.

And realizing that we sold more than 200,000 packs of seeds in the first 6 months of 2009 has also astonished us.

According to all distributors in each country we are, by a landslide, the biggest seed company in the world. We are very proud, yet humbled by this remarkable moment. Even in our wildest dreams we could only hope this would have happened one day. Twenty-four years of hard work, risk and devotion made this possible.

On behalf of all of us at Greenhouse, we thank you with the most appreciation.

Unfortunately many people working with us cannot be mentioned by name. Yet these people are the backbone of our structure. We salute to them and thank them in any and every way we can. We are proud to work with these people since very long time, a cooperation that stands firm at the basis of all our extraordinary accomplishments. Because of repression and security reasons, it is a disgrace that their names cannot be mentioned. I hope one day these heroes will be allowed to rise and be noticed and rewarded for the great things they have done for our community.

In these uncertain times you, the grower that always stood behind us while we grew very big, and sometimes could not handle the amount of orders, questions and complaints, are a great example of how strong and healthy the cannabis industry is growing. By choosing to grow Green House seeds, you demonstrated to value true connoisseur quality, ouse see

Your love and dedication for Green House Seed Company is truly amazing and is only possible because we share one passion, Cannabis. As well as one goal: the best cannabis quality.

The recognition of all of you for our company and our work came with great karma, and despite what other people think about us.

You know the real truth. Green House Seed Company stands for hard work, doing our absolute best, renewing and refreshing our industry, using all our resources to create awareness through research and development of new solutions and ideas, such as the colored seeds and the strain hunters' documentaries.

I will keep taking risks.

I will keep coming with new ideas.

I will keep coming with new varieties.

I will keep working very close with the other four seed companies and share our genetics.

I will keep listening to you, the grower, since you are the most important link in the chain, especially the smallest growers far away that have no other choice than to grow a few feminized seeds to keep themselves and their family alive.

You are in my heart.

I will keep working for rehab, police and government bodies, instructing them with my seminars.

I will keep giving kilos of feminized seeds that can change many lives of poor people and children in the poorest parts of the world.

You made a dream come true. You are part of that dream.

Thank you.

Let's continue this way and tear down all boundaries that are against us.

Thank you for your trust and dedication to Green House Seed Company.

With the deepest gratitude, love and respect

Arjan, the King of Cannabis

& the Green House Seed Company Team

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There's nothing like growing a small field in the warm Mediterranean climate of Spain. No wonder harvests are top!

SPAIN

Another season has come and gone, and—as with the rest of the world—Spanish harvests are on the rise. There are now over 500 grow shops across Spain helping to spread the home-growing revolution. A dramatic improvement has occurred in recent years in the quality of Spanish herb, which has been increasing every year. The Spanish people have a long history of farming and gardening, and now it is all blossoming and making a huge impact on the European grow scene.

Traditionally, a lot of Moroccan hashish was consumed here, and it still is. However, many people now prefer to grow their own marijuana instead of spending their money on imported hash. Feminized seeds are the starting method of choice, with cloning popular only among the most experienced growers. Some of the more popular clones and strains circulating the cities of Spain include Critical +, Llimonet Haze, New York City Diesel, Mota Khan Afghani and Edelweiss. Cities such as Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Malaga and even our Mediterranean islands boast a large number of growers, professionals and hobbyists alike.

In terms of legality, two to three cannabis plants for private use are generally tolerated in most regions. Medical-marijuana associations have started to emerge, but their existence is still not sanctioned by the government. Law enforcement varies from region to region and even from town to town. Spanish seed companies are sprouting up everywhere, some good and others not so good. If you want high-quality seeds from

Learn Spanish. Go to Spain.



Spain, look for companies with at least 10 years' experience. Companies like Elite Seeds, Delicatessen Seeds and Dynafem are top-notch professional breeders with quality genetics to offer.

Regional "Cups" are everywhere these days by invitation only. At these private events, grow-shop owners, seed breeders, activists and professional smokers get together for several days at a time. Each brings with them the best buds they have, and the smoking sessions are a hardcore fiesta. Everybody is eager to show off their work and see how it compares with the others. The hope among the contenders is to eventually make it to the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam.

Spain is fast becoming a world leader in cannabis breeding and culture. It's the doorway to Europe for many people (and many strains) from around the world. Central and South America are still connected by a cultural umbilical cord, while African genetics are just a stone's throw across the water. This enables us to get the best African varieties from down south and play with them in hybridization projects. In addition, many retired Dutch and British growers now call this place home, adding to the vast wealth of knowledge quickly accumulating among Spanish breeders.

Spain is truly at the crossroads of many cultures, and the mix of genetics that is happening here is creating a new golden age of cannabis cultivation. It's a very exciting time to be growing here. Expect even better reports next harvest season, which will be flush with new Spanish strains!

—Jay Generation, Next Generation Seed Company, Madrid



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This Australian Kush looks pretty... Kalgoorlie!



AUSTRALIA

It's been a tough year for Aussie pot smokers due to a combination of the global financial crisis and the terrible Black Saturday bushfires that ravaged the Victorian countryside earlier in 2009. Our yearly "dry period" lasted longer than usual, which made it almost impossible to find any ganja at all for a few months during the fall (January to March down under). This was also due, in part, to the huge expanses of country crops that were destroyed in the deadly inferno.

Economics had a part to play as well, with the higher market prices in Sydney attracting much of the nation's premium product there. A little-known fact is that grass in Sydney is sold by (Australian) dollar amount—a customer will order, for example, a \$50 bag that varies in weight depending on the herb's quality. In Melbourne, by contrast, grass is sold by weight, much as in the US, where you would order a specific amount, such as an eighth or an ounce, and then pay a price according to quality. In the end, dealers (and the suppliers and growers thereof) usually make out better closer to Sydney, where they can sell less for more. This pricing discrepancy can often end up leaving parts of the country with an empty pipe.

As was the case last year, the drought played a huge part in the scarcity of pot and the high prices that accompany it. With the lack of rain, there was also a lack of high-quality, naturally grown product. This has left most smokers in the southeastern states with only hydroponic options when it comes to their favorite smoke.

Since the fires, however, indoor production has increased significantly, and some potent and pungent new strains have reared their beautiful buds on the market—not-such-household-names as Marika's Madness, Black Cherry Haze and Kalgoorlie Kush, to name but a few.

Some outdoor growers have been looking to combat the often-harsh Australian summers by planting seeds in the middle of winter. Using a sophisticated but easy-to-assemble water-heating system, they can grow plants that achieve strong, mature roots by the time the sun-filled summer days return in October. This, of course, leaves the plants with a much stronger chance of living up to their growers' lofty expectations.

Growers Australia-wide are hoping for a mild summer to provide optimum conditions for this year's crop. Should the gods be smiling, this large island nation can expect once again to be at the forefront of quality marijuana production for years to come.—Conrad MacGilligan, Melbourne

Police in Kazakhstan are onto the weed trade and they want theirs...



... only the local growers are onto them as well and they're not surrendering. This dried herb will be buried and excavated after the raids are over.

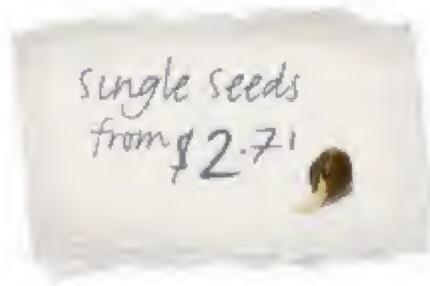
KAZAKHSTAN

For cannabis enthusiasts across the former Soviet empire, the Chu Valley in the south of Kazakhstan is legendary, evoking images of a ganja Garden of Eden where the wild plant grows uninterrupted for miles as densely as Iowa corn. In reality, conditions in the Chu Valley are less idyllic, with wild cannabis sprouting up in isolated patches alongside scrub brush on around 540 square miles of desert steppe in the valley. Known locally as *anasha*, the wild cannabis of the Chu Valley is the source of a thriving international trade, thanks largely to the difficulties that the poorly funded local police face in patrolling this vast, inhospitable terrain.

The Kazakh government estimates that the Chu Valley produces around 140,000 tons of marijuana and 5,000 to 6,000 tons of hashish annually, much of it from weaker wild strains but also, increasingly, from small, illegally cultivated stronger ones. The marijuana and hash here are primarily produced for consumption locally and in Russia. The harvest season runs from May through October, when hordes of small-time farmers sneak around the valley's rolling hills and chop the plants down with scythes and sickles.

Kazakh authorities say the heavy rains earlier this year have made for a less-than-stellar crop. Because the Kazakh drug police conduct an annual beefed-up patrol effort—entertainingly titled "Operation Poppy"—during these months, the harvesters typically dry the stalks, pack them up in plastic bags and bury them in the ground. When Operation Poppy ends in November, they return to retrieve their stash and prepare it for the market.

Marijuana is considered the most basic and least profitable element of the Chu Valley cannabis economy. The locally produced hashish is more highly valued, though not as much as *ruchnik*, which is made by rolling the stalks of the plants in one's hands and collecting the resins (similar to Indian *charas*). *Ruchnik* is sold in matchboxes, and a tiny ball of the resin is typically rolled into a cigarette for smoking.—Carl Schreck, Chu Valley



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Green House, Afaskan Ice, FEM	\$7.61	Flying Dutchman, G Force, FEM	\$10.39	Serious Seeds, AK47, REG	\$12.29

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After rigorously testing hundreds of pot varieties all year (nice work if you can get it!), HIGH TIMES proudly unveils the annual list of our 10 favorite herb strains from around the planet. Behold our 'honor roll' of the amazing cannabis that rocked our world in 2009. Then get some of these seeds, grow them out, and let us know what you think of our picks. By Danny Danko

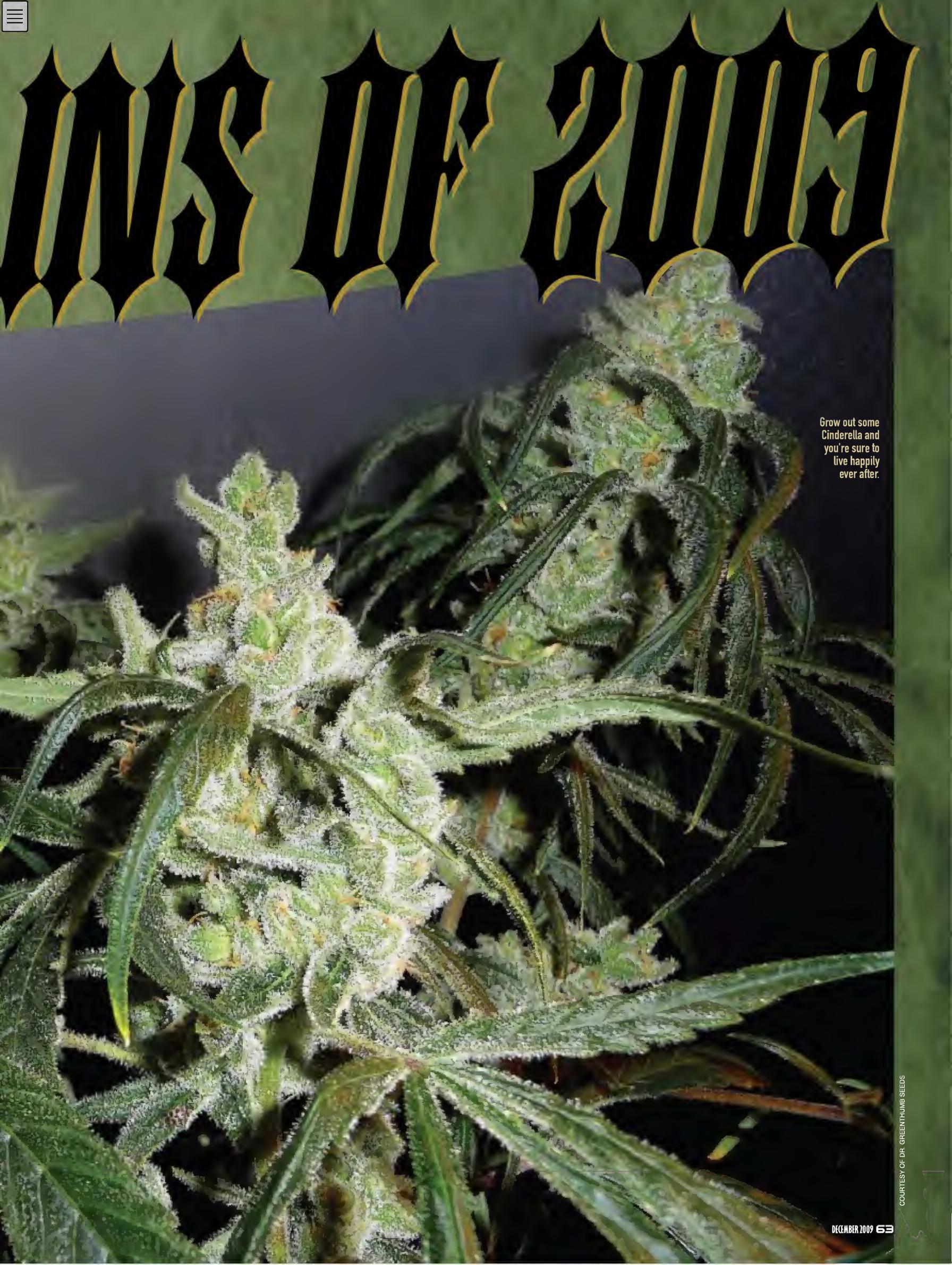
C-99

Dr. Greenthumb

The legendary Cinderella 99, known as "the Cindy" for short, is once again available in seed form for anyone to experience. The Doc tells me that his "C-99/Cinderella is a selection from the most potent we've ever found in our tests with original Cinderella F1 seeds and their progeny. No C-99 we have tested has even come close to the resin production and high THC content on this special plant." The terpene profile gives it a lime-pineapple smell with plenty of back end. Even though it's slightly on the *sativa* side, C-99 still yields exceptionally well, especially outdoors. Give Cindy a ride—you won't be disappointed.

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: Dr. Greenthumb, 613-330-2404, drgreenthumb.com



Grow out some Cinderella and you're sure to live happily ever after.

COURTESY OF DR. GREENTHUMB SEEDS



Resinous trichomes cover the Romulan x Hash Plant at maturity.

ROMULAN x HASH PLANT

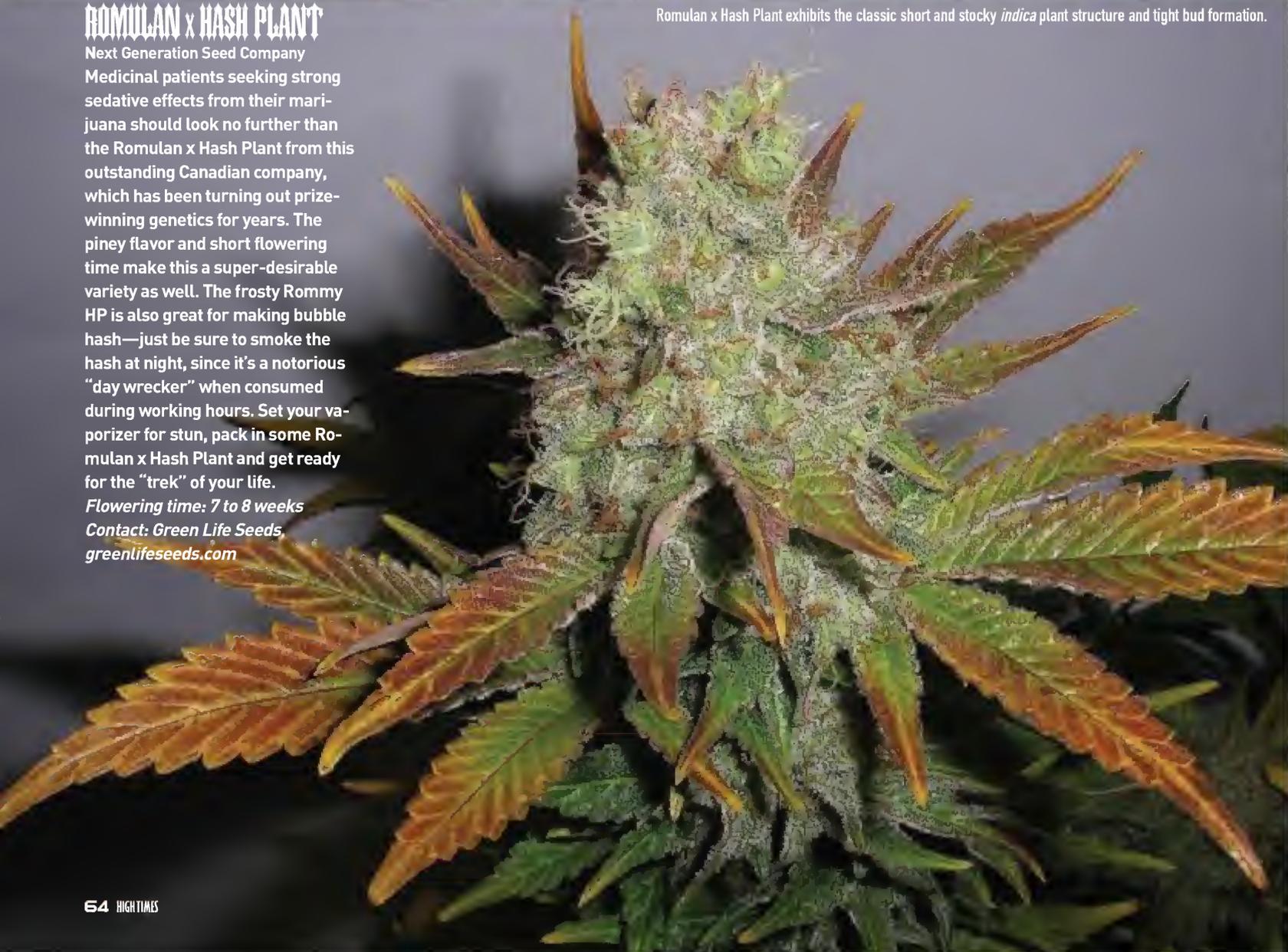
Next Generation Seed Company

Medicinal patients seeking strong sedative effects from their marijuana should look no further than the Romulan x Hash Plant from this outstanding Canadian company, which has been turning out prize-winning genetics for years. The piney flavor and short flowering time make this a super-desirable variety as well. The frosty Rommy HP is also great for making bubble hash—just be sure to smoke the hash at night, since it’s a notorious “day wrecker” when consumed during working hours. Set your vaporizer for stun, pack in some Romulan x Hash Plant and get ready for the “trek” of your life.

Flowering time: 7 to 8 weeks

*Contact: Green Life Seeds,
greentlifeseeds.com*

Romulan x Hash Plant exhibits the classic short and stocky *indica* plant structure and tight bud formation.



COURTESY OF NEXT GENERATION SEED COMPANY (2)

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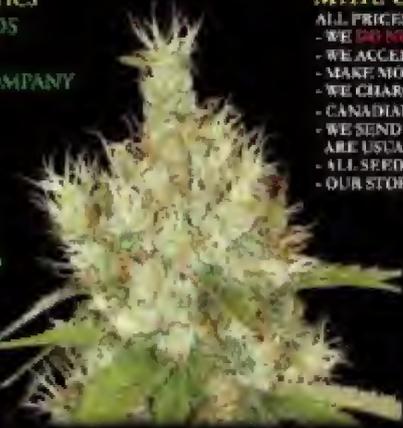
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DIESEL RYDER FEMINIZED

The Joint Doctor
Strains that flower automatically no matter what light cycle they're under are all the rage among some growers, and the Joint Doctor has been at the forefront as the original breeder of Lowryder. Now he's provided the world with a feminized auto-flowering strain for the first time with Diesel Ryder, a cross of the Lowryder and Soma's NYC Diesel. The Diesel heritage provides the power sometimes lacking in varieties with *ruderalis* traits. This strain typically grows into one main cola and begins flowering automatically at three to four weeks. The short overall flowering time makes it perfect for high altitudes and northern climates with short seasons.

Flowering time: 6 to 8 weeks

Contact: High Bred Seeds, lowryder.com

LEMON SKUNK

DNA Genetics
The DNA boys took the cannabis world by storm several years ago, and they continue to produce high-quality, award-winning hybrids with potency and flavor. Their new Lemon Skunk, a mostly *sativa* strain specifically selected for its "zesty lemon characteristics," is an easy-to-grow masterpiece of genetic achievement. She grows tall yet sports a high calyx-to-leaf ratio, making for colas that are easy to trim and a joy to smoke. Sweet, fruity and covered with bright orange hairs, Lemon Skunk packs a potent punch, with an uplifting high that seems to have no ceiling. This citrus strain definitely boasts an illustrious pedigree, and awards at harvest festivals are sure to follow.

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: DNA Genetics, dnagenetics.com

BC MANGO

BC Bud Depot
Strains from Western Canada tend to grow reliably and resist common pests, molds and maladies due to the harsh environment for which they were bred. One unique flavor from the Great White North is the BC Mango from BC Bud Depot, an *indica*-dominant variety that's great for indoors but yields incredibly outside. She stays short and stocky and tastes similar to mango chutney, with the pungent aroma of ripe, sweet fruit. A perfect strain for the beginner or intermediate grower, BC Mango grows uniform in stature, with little variation among phenotypes. Try some of the best that British Columbia has to offer.

Flowering time: 7 to 9 weeks

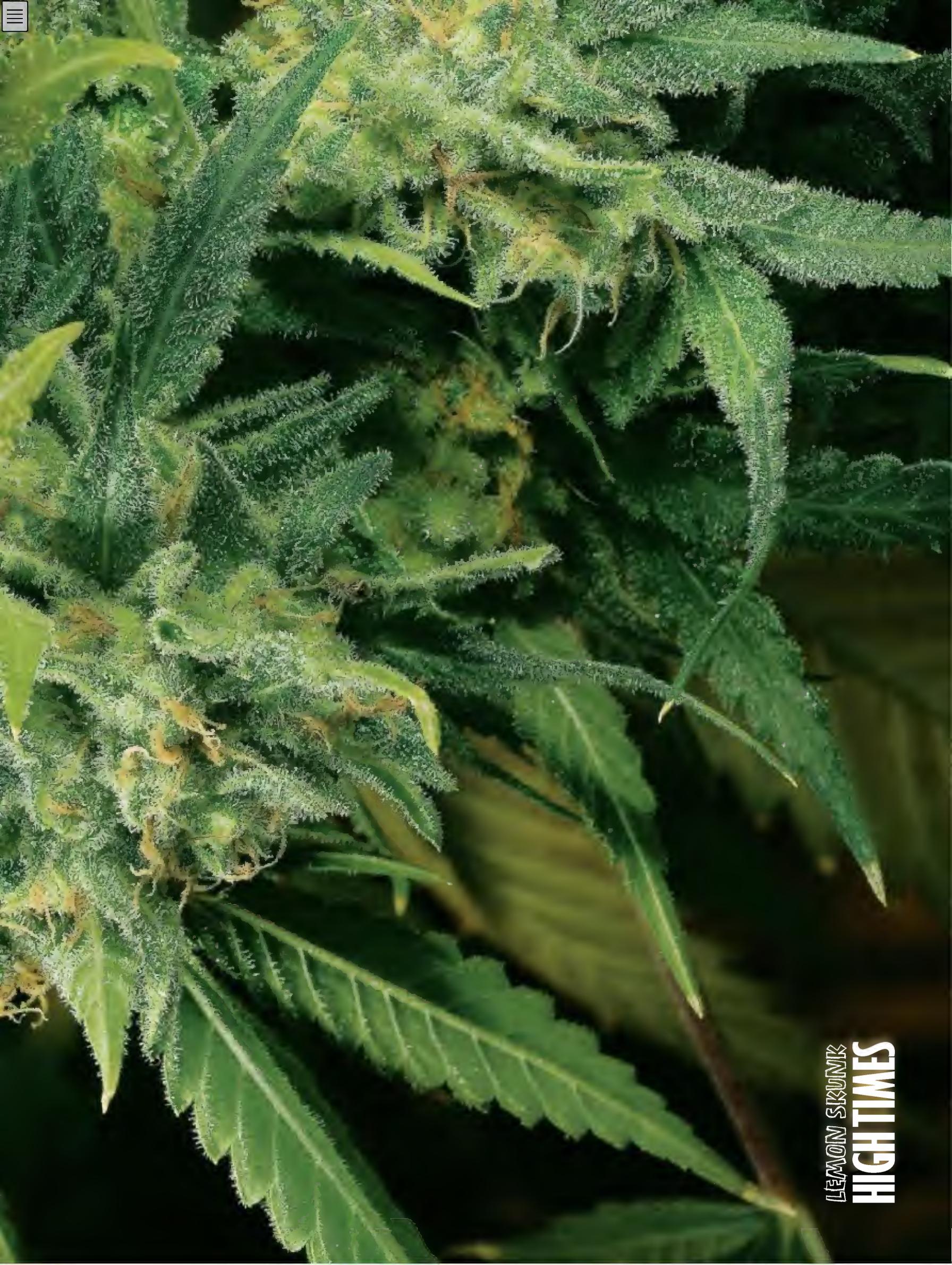
Contact: BC Bud Depot, bcbuddepot.com

This young Mango cola will fill out plump and taste sweet when ripe.



DIESEL HYDER





LEMON SKUNK
HIGH TIMES



THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH

Green House Seeds

The most highly awarded company in cannabis just keeps knocking them out of the park and shows no signs of slowing down. The Church, a combination of Swiss *Sativa*, Skunk, Super Skunk and Northern Lights, provides a spicy, peppery flavor with hints of lavender and power to spare. Endorsed by Snoop Dogg himself, this resinous strain is renowned for its resistance to mold, making it perfect for soggy or foggy regions. When grown out in large containers, these feminized seeds develop into stocky bushes with very little space between internodes, confirming their *indica*-dominant heritage. Now you don't have to pray for a great harvest; just order some seeds and find out what the Church is all about.

Flowering time: 9 weeks

Contact: Green House Seeds, greenhouseseeds.nl

Up close, The Church reveals a calyx cathedral of ripe and resinous gland heads.



COURTESY OF GREEN HOUSE SEEDS (2), COURTESY OF TH SEEDS (2)

Next stop, High Street on the A-Train express.

A-Train produces bountiful harvests of strong smoke.

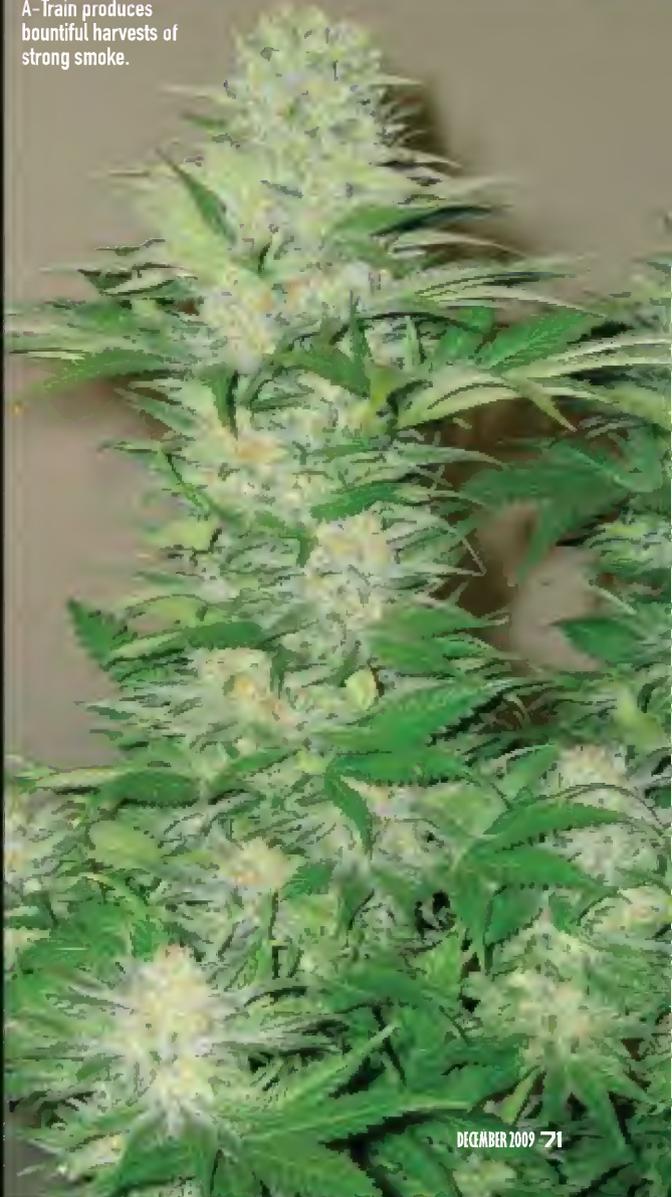
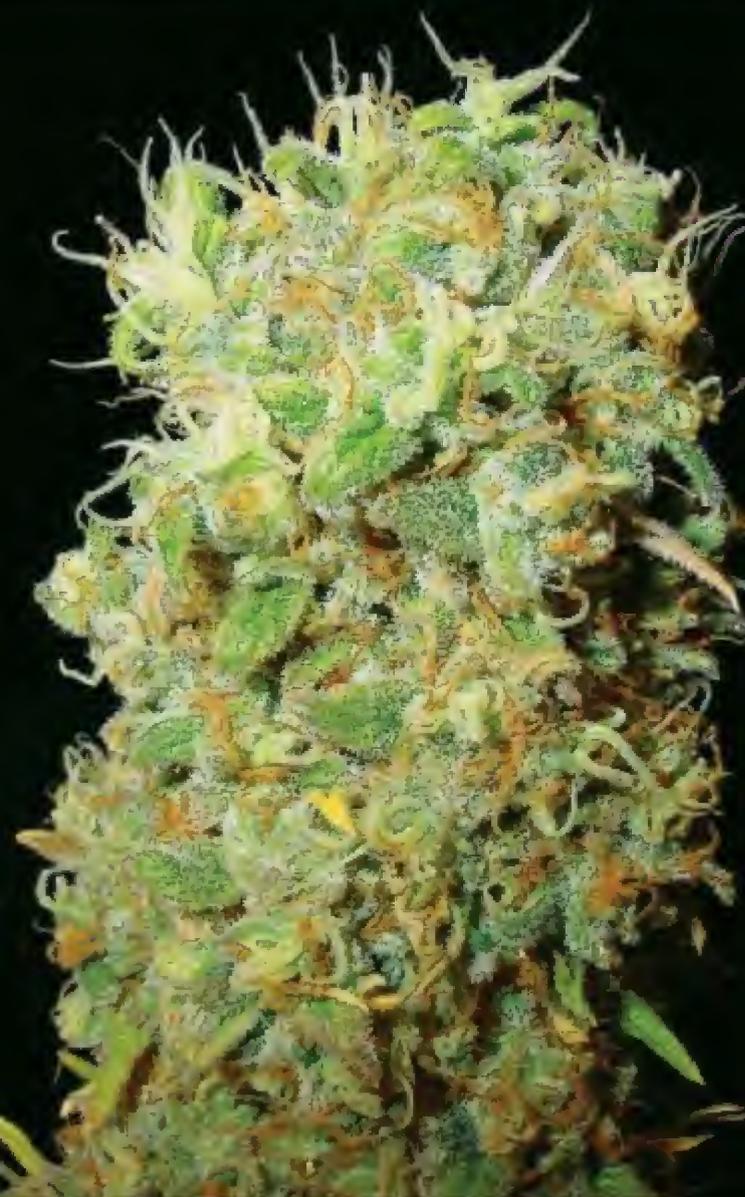
A-TRAIN

TH Seeds

If you're looking for a powerful *indica* with great flavor and odor, look no further than the A-Train from stalwart seed company TH Seeds. It's the Mazar-i-Sharif crossed with the famous Arcata Trainwreck known as the E-32 cut, and the resulting hybrid has been wowing visitors to Amsterdam for a couple of years. Anyone who's tried the original Trainwreck knows the unique flavor and mind-numbing potency of that NoCal staple, and this combination with the Afghani Mazar gives A-Train a kick all its own. This one's bound to win some awards in the near future. So if you want a truly jazzy smoke, take the A-Train!

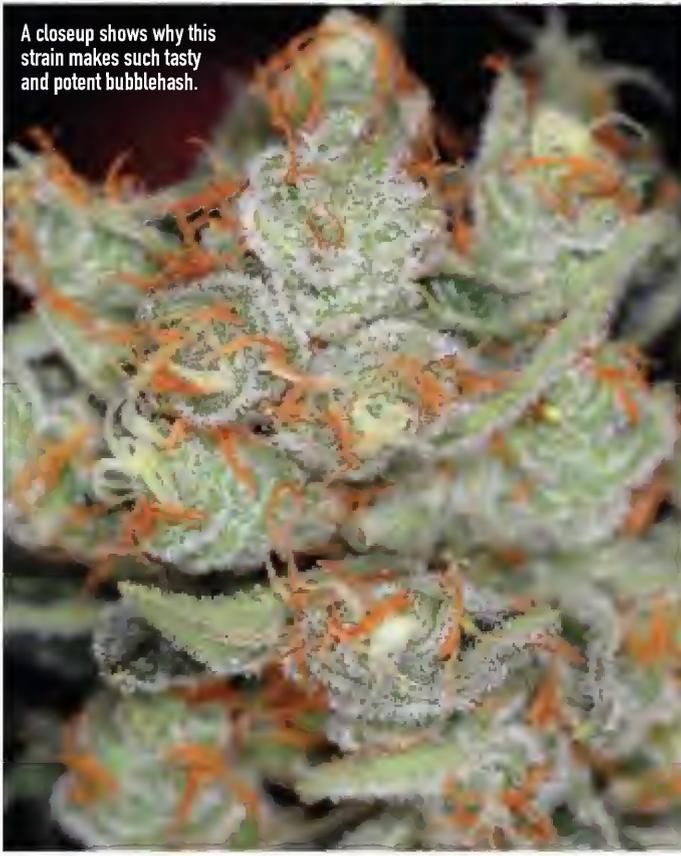
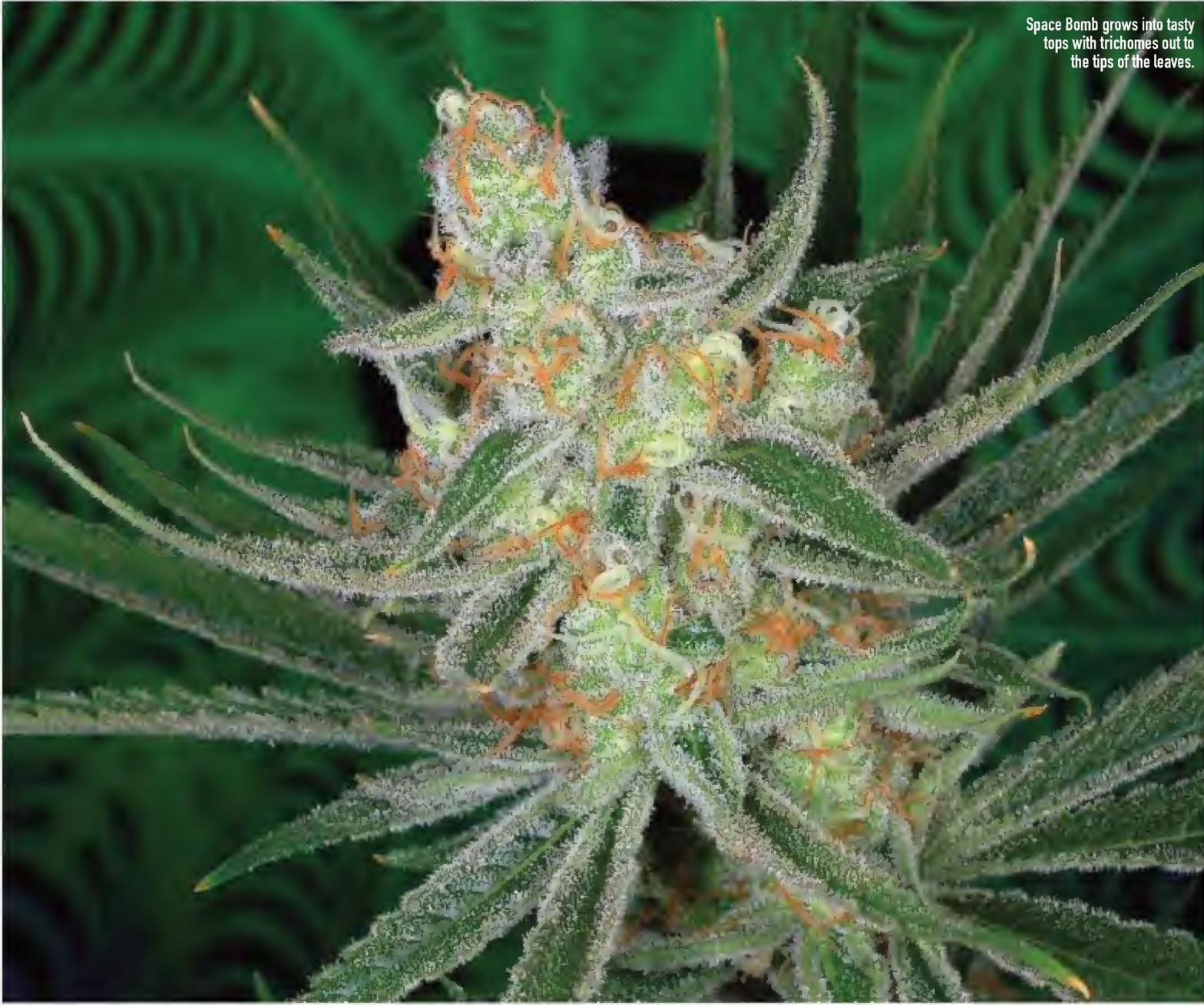
Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: TH Seeds, theseeds.com



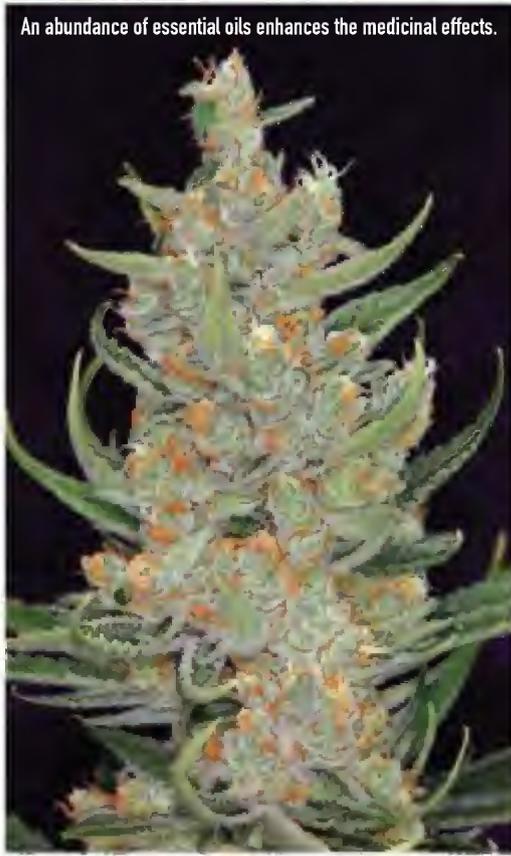


Space Bomb grows into tasty tops with trichomes out to the tips of the leaves.



A closeup shows why this strain makes such tasty and potent bubblehash.

SPACE BOMB
 Subcool Seeds and TGA Team Green Avenger strikes again in their quest to provide quality genetics for cannabis connoisseurs and medical patients worldwide. The Space Bomb consists of Subcool's Tiny Bomb female fertilized by the Space Dude male to create a super-resinous hybrid. The phenos tend to lean toward their *sativa*-esque C-99 or Romulan heritage, with both growing tall and branchy for decent harvests indoors or out. Subcool says the Space Bomb "tastes like sour candy, with a fruity and prevailing funk, and works well for pain relief." TGA Seeds can also be found at Hemp Depot and the Ontario Seed Bank, as well as many dispensaries in California and Colorado.
Flowering time: 6½ to 7½ weeks
Contact: Subcool Seeds (TGA), breedbay.co.uk



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The new Amber 420 Jars block UV rays that can be harmful to the longevity of your buds. This discrete storage solution is available in three sizes with 9 designs, you're sure to find one you love. These 420 Jars are perfect for travel and keeping your delicious nugs fresh.



420Science.com



A GSPOT bud will enhance your pleasure of pot. (Right) Frosty *indica* power!

GSPOT

Vancouver Island Seed Company (VISC)

VISC, a recent addition to the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame (HT Aug. '09), consists of cannabis couple K and G. Their GSPOT strain, named for G (get it? "G's pot"), is one of their strongest *indica*-dominant selections. G tells me, "This one's my personal favorite—ass-kicking weed whose extreme potency demands consideration. She grows dense bud upon bud rigid with resins, and her purple-streaked stalks and leaf stems add a visual display as pleasing to your eye as



her hashy, extremely intense flavor." The many trichomes are great for either vaporizing or extracting. Make sure to find and touch the GSPOT sometime soon.

Flowering time: 6 to 8 weeks

Contact: Vancouver Island Seed Company, vancouverseed.com

CANNA SUTRA

Delta-9 Labs

True connoisseurs know the many stimulating effects of *sativas*, including the ability of that telltale, uplifting high to sometimes inspire sensual thoughts and feelings. Ed and Harry from Delta-9 Labs crossed Reclining Buddha with Sensi Star to create the Canna Sutra, a strain that elevates and stimulates the mind ... and so much more. The smoke is smooth and soft and leaves behind a wonderful incense-like smell in its aftermath. When growing, give Canna Sutra a good amount of space for the roots and plenty of room to breathe. She'll reward you with a bounty of bodacious buds perfect for a quiet, romantic evening with a special friend.

Flowering time: 9 weeks

Contact: Delta-9 Labs, delta9labs.com



This Canna Sutra female is ready and willing to rock your world.



Canna Sutra seeds popping out of a fertilized flower.



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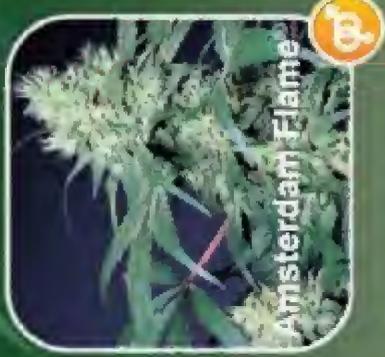
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Sheherazade



Jacky White



Spoetnik#1



Ice Cream



Nebula



Magic Bud



Wappa



White Berry



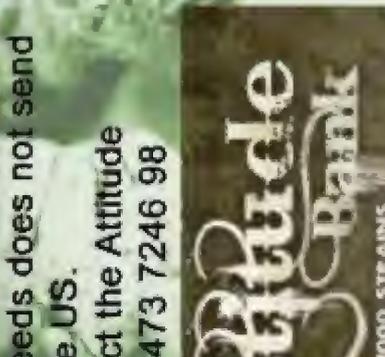
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Our intrepid reporter journeys to the most isolated piece of real estate on Earth to learn the secret of survival in the land of the stone giants. Along the way, he finds some bud, too.

HIGH TIMES OVEREAS

IN DOG WE TRUST

Within minutes of disembarking the Lan Chile plane on Easter Island, I ran into what I imagined was the island's only drug dog. A friendly little mutt—some beagle/spaniel bitch that jumped onto the luggage-filled conveyer belt like a yuppie mounting a Nordic Track. I learned later on that this little pup was a bone of contention for the Rapa Nui stoner crowd, who, previous to her arrival, thought little about bringing a few pounds of bud back with them every time they flew home from mainland Chile. I was told one story of how, a few years back when the Chilean cops felt the need to crack down on Easter Island's marijuana trade, one of the islanders ripped a plant from a patch in his backyard, brought it to the police station and said, "Take this, tell the bigwigs in Chile you're making progress, and now please leave us alone."

Anywhere else, I would think this story was bullshit, but here, on the most isolated inhabited land mass on the globe, it makes perfect sense. For starters, the native population tops out at around 3,000 people—the size of a large urban high school in America. Everyone knows each other, which explains why there is very little law enforcement and almost no crime. It's the closest thing to Saint Thomas More's Utopia I've ever seen. Sure, it took 1,500 years of war, starvation, cannibalism, slavery and colonization to get there, but this little piece of volcanic tuft midway between South America and Tahiti, this place of community, economic stability and staggering natural beauty, would warm the heart of Saint Thomas himself, had King Henry VIII not ordered that his head be chopped off and stuck on a pike by London Bridge one dreary British morning back in 1535.

You want to be a saint, you've got to roll with the punches, I guess. It's a hard club to get into and the hazing is rough. But really, it takes more than one misguided dog to defeat the ingenuity of these people, responsible for one of history's finest examples of monolithic culture. Take a look at any one of the ancient stone heads on the island and you know that time is on their side.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Rebekah, my companion on this expedition, and I are staying at what I guess you'd call a rooming house—no TV, no air conditioner, just a simple room with clean sheets and roosters that wake you up at dawn. Animals roam free on the streets here in Hanga Roa, the island's only town. Horses and dogs walk around with the same freedom that squirrels are allotted in the States. Our place is run by two artists, Anna and her husband Bene, one of the master sculptors on the island whose work appears in museums around the world. Next-door is the island's only music studio, run by Mauricio, Anna's son-in-law, and there's all sorts of music playing at odd hours of the night, from the traditional folksy Rapa Nui acoustic stuff to Mauricio's preferred metallic Sepultura-inspired thrash. The weather is perfect all day and night; it rains a bit, but you can actually see the dark clouds and avoid them if that's what you wanted to do.

We rented a scooter the first day—no money down, because if you really wanted to steal it, where would you go? To those who live here, the place is known as Rapa Nui, as opposed to the "Easter Island" moniker given it by the Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen back in 1722 because he "discovered" it on Easter Day. In the early days, it was called Te-Pito-te-Henua, which translates roughly as "the Navel of the World."

The island's first settlers came sometime between AD 400 and 800 from a land they called Hiva, thought to be in the vicinity of the Marquesas, some 2,500 miles away in Polynesia. Their king was Hotu Matua, a name that, all these years later, still commands great respect on the island. Sometime around 1200, they started carving these gigantic statues (*moai*) out of the porous volcanic tuft, monuments to their ancestors, great storehouses of spirit—or, as it is known here, *mana*. After a while, they'd set up a Henry Ford-like production line of *moai* that required the daily attention of the island's best people—and also that the trees be cut down in order to roll the massive idols to the shore. There wasn't a whole lot of

Ahu Akivi, the only platform of Moai that watch the Pacific.



By Chris Simunek. Photos by Rebekah L. Harris

TERA ISLAND

farming or fishing going on at this time, so the trees disappeared one by one until, far too late, the islanders realized they'd gone and fucked up their entire ecology in the race for bigger and better *moai*. This quest for power destroyed their world, leading to war and cannibalism and all sorts of likewise horrible behavior.

Into all this sailed Roggeveen and the Dutch West India Trading Company, the decidedly less prosperous cousin of the East India Trading Company that had made its stamp throughout Africa and Asia. After dropping anchor, they managed, in a fatal panic, to shoot a dozen islanders before their boots had even stepped on dry land. They spent a day, bugged out on the statues, fucked the women and left in search of *Terra Australis*, the mythical "southern continent," a land that, plain and simple, did not exist. Then came the Spanish, who claimed the land for their crown 50 years later and never returned. Captain Cook spent a day or two here, five years before he was butchered by the Hawaiians. The French, the Americans, the Russians ... each visitor seemed to take more than they gave until the time in 1862 when Peruvian slave ships landed and carried away more than half the population, including the last king, to collect guano in caves along the coast of South America. An outcry from Tahitian bishops facilitated the return of those Rapa Nui slaves who were still alive—and in so doing, introduced smallpox to the land. By the time the missionaries came from France to Christianize the heathens, there were only a few hundred left.

A Frenchman named Jean-Baptiste Dutrou-Bornier had the bright idea to turn the island into a gigantic sheep farm, forcing all the natives into one little barbed-wire pen at Hanga Roa, and to this day that's still where most of them live. Chile took it over in 1888. A century later, Dictator General Augusto Pinochet saw Easter Island as a chance to live down some of the massive human-rights

abuses that were rightfully being pinned on him after his US-backed coup on September 11, 1972, and the decade-long kidnapping/torture/murder campaign, Operation Condor, that followed, and so he gave the land and a certain degree of autonomy back to the people of Rapa Nui. There were a few token ceremonies where Pinochet shook hands with the local dignitaries and was serenaded by schoolchildren, then it was back to La Moneda and the more serious business of killing commies. Kevin Costner came in 1993 and made a ridiculous movie, tourists started to arrive sometime thereafter, and today the people here aren't rich, but they're doing all right.

At night in the streets of Hanga Roa, you can smell marijuana smoke emanating from the joints of the *jurgos*, the Rapa Nui hippies.

At night in the streets of Hanga Roa, you can smell marijuana smoke emanating from the joints of the *jurgos*, the Rapa Nui hippies. You see them during the day, riding through town bareback on horses. They look like rock stars with their Rapa Nui tattoos and their hair in long, flowing dreadlocks woven with various bits of fabric, kind of like Johnny Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow from the Disney movies. I don't know what they do all day—fuck the tourist ladies, I imagine. Rebekah and I met one girl from San Francisco whose mission it was to bed down one of these dudes, and it took her about 15 hours. Lord knows how many Rapa Nui zygotes gestate in the wombs of Lan Chile passengers as they pour salted peanuts down their throats on their way back to France or Germany or wherever.

I heard one story about how U2 stopped over and Bono and company walked the streets surrounded by bodyguards, and the locals were a bit perplexed because they didn't really know who these guys were. Axl Rose apparently paid this place a visit too, accompanied by a gigantic black bodyguard, but when the local girls got a look at his Nubian sentinel, Axl soon found himself wandering the streets of Hanga Roa alone—which was all right, because with his hair and tats, most people just mistook him for one of the *jurgos*.



This horse lost a battle with the rocks.



One of the fallen at Aho Tapeu.

SKULLS AND SMOKING BONES

We hired a guide to show us around. His real name was Mahatua, followed by a whole lot of words that he rattled off for 45 seconds, but his “slave name,” he said, was Leo, “like the Ninja Turtle,” so that’s what we called him. He ran the only TV station on the island and had a little cinderblock of office next to a mammoth satellite dish surrounded by barbed wire that captured one single channel from mainland Chile and disseminated it amongst the local television sets.

Leo’s Rapa Nui bloodline goes back to the first boats. His grandfather was the mayor here. He went to school in Chile (primary and university), and he once got in trouble in Santiago for breaking into a crypt drunk with his friends and taking pictures with some unfortunate people’s bones—and when the authorities caught him, he said: “You people have been disturbing the graves of my ancestors and taking pictures with my ancestors’ bones for 100 years.” He told us the first time he saw television in the ‘80s, he thought: “This is big.” At first he studied philosophy in Santiago, but that was in the Pinochet years, and when they replaced his philosophy teacher with one of Pinochet’s generals, Leo caused a stink that landed him in jail for a little while. When he got out, he decided to study radio and TV production. In the early ‘90s, he heard that Kevin Costner was going to film the movie *Rapa Nui* here, and that there might be a job for him if he learned English, so he taught himself the language in a few weeks by watching a lot of movies with subtitles.

Leo picked us up in a bouncy little truck. He was smoking a pack of Marlboros that had a warning on the cellophane, a picture of a man dying of cancer who looked uncannily like Pinochet with the words “Smoking will kill you” printed on it, and that’s why he’d bought the pack—because he liked the idea that smoking might kill Pinochet (who, in fact, was already dead). He said going to school in Santiago back in those days was like living in Nazi Germany, with tanks on the street and soldiers spraying machine-gun fire into crowds and not caring who got shot. As a younger man, he used to like to eat peyote and LSD and San Pedro cactus seeds; these days he smokes marijuana pretty much all day long. In fact, he told us he once got high with Kevin Costner, but the man who dances with wolves apparently bugs out and has to lie down after he dances with joints.

According to Leo, there are two kinds of pot on the island, *pito moke*, which translates as “small weed,” and *petardo moke*, which is “the good stuff.” It’s a hybrid of the myriad South American strains that have been coming over from the mainland since the ‘60s. I don’t know whether I came during a dry season, or whether it had become so scarce that folks harvested before the plants were mature, but the bud that I saw was leafy schwag in the most basic sense of the term.



(l to r) The author, music producer Mauricio and his tech, Romero.



It got me high.

Leo told us that he once got high with Kevin Costner, but the man who dances with wolves apparently bugs out and has to lie down after he dances with joints.

The guardians of Anakena Beach.



One of the most interesting parts of our day was when we were in Ranu Raraku, a burned-out volcanic crater the size of a baseball stadium that served as the quarry where most of the statues were carved. All around us were *moais* in various states of completion. Some were half-formed and still imbedded in the hills; others were completed but had stalled inexplicably on their journey down the hill to the shore. It’s like a photograph of that moment when the people threw down their tools and abandoned statue carving forever—a production line frozen, a mechanism ground to a halt.

I asked Leo why they’d stopped carving statues, expecting to hear something about ecological devastation and all the other reasons that I’d read in books. Instead, he hit me with the legend.

“The tradition say that there was one woman cooking for all the workers here all day. One day, the people catch a big lobster, a *big* lobster, man, and don’t bring nothing for the woman. She was very angry: ‘All day I’m cooking for you and you don’t bring me a little leg of the lobster for me?’ And she use her *mana* and shouted at the sky. The tradition say this woman, normal woman, the cooking woman, have the power to stop the *moai* work. Any person have the *mana* or the energy to stop the *moai* work again. Everybody has the energy to destroy everything in the universe, and this is true, physically. An atom, you cut an atom, you make a big mistake. We knew this in the past—we didn’t exactly know about the atom, but we knew in the past that energy existed in any thing and any people.”

It had started to rain, so we ducked under a large *moai* stuck in the ground with his head tilted to the side and this look on his face that is almost indescribable, the way they say the Mona Lisa is indescribable with that odd smirk. No smirk on this one, just solemn, stoic, serious-as-fuckness emanating from his face. As the rain came down, the three of us huddled beneath the *moai*’s chin. Leo rolled a spliff and, as we passed it around, I stared out at the cliffs, the sky, the water crashing on the black volcanic rock, and I understood why the Rapa Nui used to call this place the Navel of the World. First, they believed that the rest of the world had sunk into the sea, right up until the Dutch showed up in their ships and started shooting them. But also because the island felt like you were ensconced in one of those Christmas snow globes and the sky was a dome over your head and that’s all there was. When I asked Leo what the islanders used to make of the stars, he said that they believed they were the campfires of the gods. You can imagine how comfortable it must have felt to sleep at night surrounded by so much deity. Monotheists—the Christians, Muslims and Jews with their one angry God—they deny themselves this holy blanket, and as a result, I don’t think any of them has ever had as good a night’s rest as Hotu Matua used to enjoy.

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HIGH TIMES ON EASTER ISLAND

The island is covered with animal skeletons, some bleached white by the sun, others lying torched on the ground where someone poured gasoline on them and set them alight to hasten the inevitable return of molecules to the earth. It took me a while to get it, the cruel joke of fate that brought hoofed animals like horses and cows to this island and its sharp, steep, volcanic-rock coast. One wrong step and they meet the reaper. But I guess there were always bones on the cliffs here—the altars, or *ahus*, upon which the rows of *moai* stand were burial places where bodies were left to decay. Visitors from the first Dutchmen to Thor Heyerdahl in the '60s noted the presence of human bones by the *ahus*. Death here has never been something to hide.

I ask Leo if they've ever figured out which *moai* was the first one carved, and he tells me the legend, punctuating it with the line: "And then a German expedition came, and now it is in a museum in Berlin." He tells us that he wishes he could visit the various museums and stake claim to the artifacts that have been stolen over the years. It's a great idea. We laugh that maybe Michael Moore could put some money behind it and it would be called *Dude, Where's My Moai?*

The lava shoreline along the Camino Coast.



THIS ISLAND EARTH

It was late in the afternoon, still light out, but the moon was up and full. The place where we were going, Orongo, where the Birdman ceremonies used to be held, was closed, but none of the monuments or sites had fences around them. "Closed" just meant that the guy you were supposed to pay an admission fee to had already gone home.

Once carving *moai* began to fall out of vogue, the idea emerged among the Rapa Nui that perhaps the leadership of their people should be based on a contest of strength and skill. The sooty tern returned to the island at the same time every year and nested upon a small rock outcropping a mile or so offshore. It was decided that the various clans on the island would sponsor an athletic competition,

and the head of the winning clan would be *ariki*, or chief, of the island for the year. The idea was for members of the various clans to swim out to the rock where the birds nested, through rough, shark-infested waters, and return to the island with an unbroken egg. In effect, they created their own Olympics. *Moai* production had all but destroyed them, so they paved a new road to power. *Mana* was restored to the flesh once they realized it was wasted when it was trapped in stone.

Rano Kau is one of the volcanoes that formed the island 750,000 years ago—an eruption of molten hawaiite and basalt spewed from the liquid center of the earth. Compared to the continents, this was young land. Down in the middle of the crater was a large pool of fresh water scattered throughout with marsh grass, so that its surface looked not unlike the surface of the moon that its water reflected. They say Hotu Matua was guided here by a dream that one of his priests had. I don't believe they could have found it any other way. When you do the math, calculating the probability of a few outrigger canoes sailing from Polynesia across the Pacific and coming across a 14-mile-long island 2,500 miles away from land in any direction, the safe bet would have been on certain death.

But next to chiseling rock, survival is the ultimate skill of the Rapa Nui people. Sure, they used to eat each other for dinner, but we all do that one way or another.

We talked of the changes on the island, the fact that the Explora people (known for their lavish compounds in Patagonia) had already built a \$500-a-night hotel there, the potential for exploitation, the withering of the coast, the rising global climate, the topsoil that was getting rained into the sea, the white mold that ate away at the faces of the *moai*, the German tourists with their sun-baked ham tans trampling over the sacred burial sites like they were Czechoslovakia. Leo said that if it gets really bad, he's out of here.

"I'll find another island," he told me with the

Ranu Raraku, where the stone giants stopped walking to the sea.



sunset at his back as he lit the half-joint we had left over from before. I don't know why he'd want to leave, but he was insistent. "I know that there's a bunch of Rapa Nui who took over an island in Patagonia. There are lots of islands there that people don't want because it is too cold. In fact, they have found biological evidence—bones that they have DNA-tested—that says that Rapa Nui people went to Patagonia hundreds of years ago."

It's human nature to squeeze the Earth dry. Conservation, green living, eating organic *this* or driving a hybrid *that* just prolongs the inevitable. Sometime down the line, we'll be eating each other, too. That's the breaks: no U-turns on the drive to Armageddon.

The Rapa Nui people were lucky to have Hotu Matua on their side. Our prophets—Jesus, Moses and Muhammad—they don't seem to take as personal an interest in our well-being. We could use the spiritual hand of someone who knows what it's like to wind down a clock. I suggest we all start reading the Gospel According to John Dillinger, the bloody American outlaw apostle who knew that if you have to lose, you may as well do it with class. ✨



Party on, dude.



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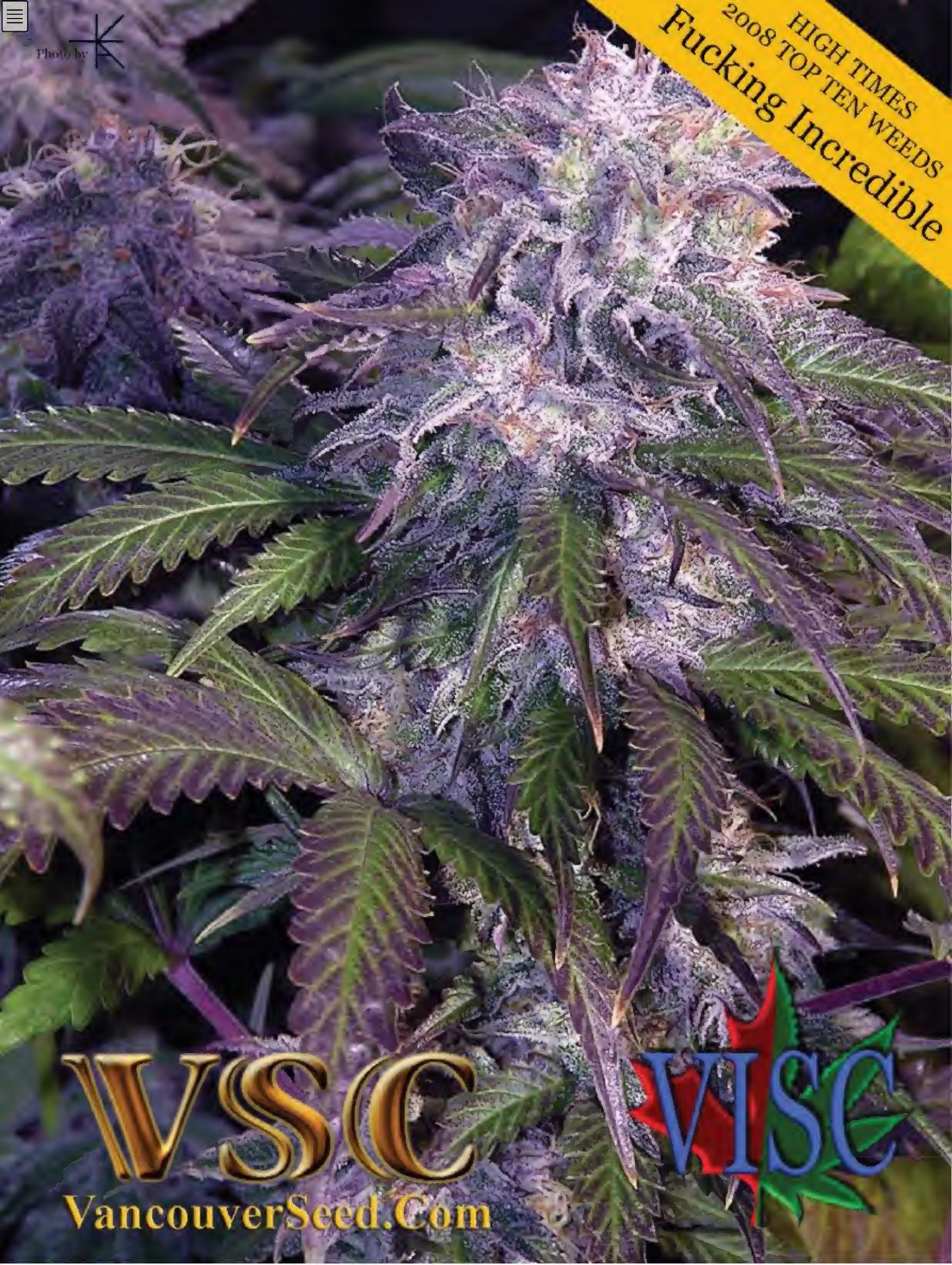
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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

SAFETY INTERVIEW

The HIGH TIMES interview with Mason Tvert. By David Bienenstock



TING



With so many reasons to legalize marijuana, it can be hard to pick just one. Legalization would end the needless prosecution of otherwise law-abiding pot smokers, create a multibillion-dollar-a-year industry with plenty of “green jobs” to go around, add billions more in much-needed tax dollars to our barren national coffers, allow law enforcement to focus on far more important priorities, clear up our congested court system and overcrowded prisons, help stem the violence on the US/Mexico border, deprive international drug cartels of a significant portion of their profits, ensure safe access for medical-marijuana users nationwide, and uphold the American ideals of liberty and justice for all.

Mason Tvert, co-founder of Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER), wants you to forget all those good reasons (at least for the moment) and focus instead on just one simple, irrefutable statement of fact: Marijuana is safer than alcohol. With more than 35,000 alcohol-related deaths per year in the United States alone, and exactly zero deaths from marijuana use in the history of human civilization, it's an easy claim to back up.

It's also a message, Mason feels, that gets to the heart of the matter, not to mention one that lends itself to easy—and effective—humor. To this end, SAFER has sponsored billboards and publicity campaigns telling Americans that marijuana is just like alcohol, but without the carbs, the violence and the hangovers, and reminding them that Dick Cheney shot his friend in the face after a few drinks.

Founded initially to address the very serious issue of alcohol-related deaths on America's college campuses, SAFER began to make waves with a string of successful campaigns urging college administrations to stop steering students toward drinking with harsher penalties for pot. The organization reached national prominence by championing voter initiatives that decriminalized the possession of up to an ounce of herb in Denver, CO, and designated it the city's lowest law-enforcement priority. Now, Mason—along with SAFER co-founder Steve Fox and NORML deputy director Paul Armentano—has written a book titled *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?* (see excerpt on page 86) that takes SAFER's seemingly common-sense argument and expands it into a detailed roadmap for the marijuana-legalization movement to follow. The comprehensive policy tome starts with a history of marijuana's prohibition, outlines the “marijuana is safer” message in detail, and, most importantly, instructs activists on how to effectively employ this bit of verbal jujitsu as a way to take the prohibitionists' most effective, and misleading, argument—that marijuana use is harmful—and use it against them.

Why did you decide to write this book?

There's no logical reason why marijuana should remain entirely illegal, but for more than 70 years our government has been playing a game to keep it that way, convincing Americans that it's just too harmful for anyone to use. We wrote this book to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that marijuana is far safer than alcohol, and provide an airtight case for why it should be treated that way. For nonbelievers, the book will change the way they think about marijuana. For true believers, it will change the way they *talk* about marijuana.

Was humor always one of the strategies for SAFER, or is that something you've learned along the way?

We have always believed that finding fun and interesting ways to inform the public makes for the most effective message and lends itself to the viral nature of modern information sharing. As a small organization with a limited budget, limited staff and limited resources, that's a big part of our challenge.

If you could snap your fingers and make all the alcohol in the world disappear, would you?

No. We're not against alcohol—at all. I fully respect adults' right to use alcohol, and I use it myself on occasion. But a selective prohibition in which the government outlaws marijuana and not alcohol is incredibly harmful and downright irrational. It's time they acknowledge that both of these substances are widely used, relatively accepted by the public, and can both be used responsibly.

Have you had any contact with Mothers Against Drunk Driving or other mainstream groups that deal with alcohol issues?

We have certainly reached out to organizations that deal with drinking issues. We've even tried to have tables at events specifically focused on curbing drinking by college students, but we've been largely ignored and even rejected by these groups. They refuse to acknowledge that college students are always going to want to get intoxicated, and they are unwilling to even consider whether allowing them to use marijuana more freely would result in less alcohol use. They have their heads buried firmly in the sand.

"What can I get you?"

The bottles behind Mason hold enough liquor to kill dozens of people. All the marijuana ever pictured in HIGH TIMES couldn't kill a single one.

Did you ever hear from Ricky Williams after you put up a billboard urging him to "Come to Denver, where the people support your SAFER choice"?

No. His passion is to play football, not to fight drug laws. He is a very private individual who has come to find that, in order to play football and live the life he wants to live, he is not allowed to talk honestly about marijuana. Our society and its rules have made marijuana a taboo subject for too long. If I had a nickel for every time an elected official or prominent person said, "I totally agree with you, but there's nothing I can do or say," I would have a lot of nickels.

Do you have a sense of how big and powerful the alcohol lobby is?

Like most billion-dollar industries, it's incredibly powerful. Big Alcohol spends millions lobbying elected officials and contributes extensively to political candidates on both sides of the aisle. Marijuana is also a billion-dollar industry, but while there are some strong groups advocating on its behalf, funding for the pot lobby pales in comparison.

What is SAFER currently working on?

We recently launched a new campus-specific website, SAFERCampuses.org, which provides students with everything they need to spread the "marijuana is safer" message, inspire public debate, and strengthen the movement. Recently, we launched the Emerald Initiative in response to the Amethyst Initiative—a highly publicized call, endorsed by more than 130 college presidents, for "informed and dispassionate public debate" on lowering the legal drinking age as a means of curbing dangerous college drinking. SAFER's Emerald Initiative calls on these same university leaders to endorse a similar statement in support of "informed and dispassionate public debate" on whether allowing students to use marijuana more freely could reduce dangerous drinking on and around college campuses. It has already garnered a fair amount of media attention, and that's just the beginning.

How has the election of Barack Obama affected the marijuana-legalization movement?

Obama and the new Drug Czar are certainly an improvement over their predecessors, but that's not saying a whole lot. Sure, the president is willing to admit he inhaled and "that was the point," but his Drug Czar also says the word "legalization" is "not in [his] vocabulary"—suggesting not only that he is opposed to it, but that it's somehow unworthy of debate. Seems a bit hypocritical for an administration that promised to base policy on scientific evidence and impassioned debate rather than politics and ideology.

Ironically, perhaps the most significant effect Obama has had on this movement has been his *lack* of effect on this movement. Many had high hopes following the election, but when the newly elected president ducked the marijuana issue—the most popular question asked—during his online town hall, he sent a much-needed reminder to millions of reform supporters that *they* will have to be the leaders on this issue. ✨

NOT ADDING A VICE, BUT PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE



An excerpt from *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?* by Steve Fox, Paul Armentano and Mason Tvert (Chelsea Green, 2009).

Marijuana Is Safer compares and contrasts the world's two most popular recreational substances—marijuana and alcohol—and provides the intellectual foundation for a movement to educate the public that marijuana is the less harmful of the two. In Chapter 9, excerpted below, the authors describe one prominent past effort to change marijuana laws in America and explain why, in their opinion, the "marijuana is safer than alcohol" message needs to be a prominent part of future efforts.

In 2002, and again in 2006, the Marijuana Policy Project set out to prove that the "traditional" arguments in favor of marijuana-policy reform could convince an electorate to support regulating cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol. They launched their campaign in Nevada, home of legal gambling and legal prostitution. To twist the famous phrase about New York City, MPP apparently assumed "If you can't make marijuana legal here, you probably can't make it legal anywhere." But the organization was under no illusions. It knew that Americans' bias against marijuana was strong and that overcoming it would be no easy task—even in a libertarian-leaning state like Nevada.

In order to fully appreciate the Marijuana Policy Project's campaigns in Nevada, you need to know a bit about MPP. Put aside any preconceived notions you might have about longhaired hippies marching in the streets: The Marijuana Policy Project fits no such stereotype. Located on Capitol Hill in the heart of Washington, DC, MPP employs more than 30 staffers—most of whom would be more likely to fit in at a K Street cocktail party than a pot rally—and possesses an annual operating budget of approximately \$5 million. It has spearheaded successful statewide lobbying and initiative campaigns in numerous states—including Hawaii, Vermont, Maryland, Montana, Massachusetts and

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Mason Tvert led SAFER's effort to pass a statewide initiative decriminalizing marijuana in Colorado.

'If I had a nickel for every elected official or prominent person who said, "I totally agree with you, but there's nothing I can do or say," I would have a lot of nickels.'

Michigan—to enact significant changes in cannabis policy. In short, the MPP team works long hours, strives for perfection and plays to win.

We share these insights about the Marijuana Policy Project to illustrate that the Nevada campaigns provided a legitimate test of the effectiveness of the traditional arguments in favor of repealing cannabis prohibition. MPP did not simply place these initiatives on the ballot and then hope for a positive outcome. Quite the contrary: They conducted an elaborately orchestrated and well-financed campaign to convince a majority of the public that we should treat pot like alcohol. According to the media and campaign-finance reports filed with the state, MPP spent approximately \$1,800,000 in 2002 and about \$2,800,000 in 2006. Much of this money was used to purchase airtime so that voters would be exposed to MPP's best and most persuasive legalization arguments.

For example, one MPP ad asked voters whether the state should continue to "waste police resources enforcing marijuana laws that don't work or use them to go after those who would really hurt us," such as violent predators, murderers and rapists. Another ad, featuring black-

and-white, surveillance-style nighttime footage of a man dealing marijuana on the street, argued that taxing and regulating pot would take it out of the hands of drug dealers, while simultaneously providing money to the state for education, roads and other priorities.

Despite MPP's powerful and pervasive messaging, a strong majority of Nevada residents voted—twice—to maintain the existing system of criminal prohibition. In 2002, the initiative garnered just 39 percent of the vote. Four years later, MPP's 2006 initiative was supported by 44 percent of the electorate. This was a significant improvement, but still well short of the majority needed for passage.

So if the residents of Nevada heard all of the standard arguments in favor of taxing and regulating marijuana like alcohol, what prevented them from embracing MPP's proposals? Our supposition is this: MPP's campaign rhetoric—and, more specifically, its ads—while logical and rational, were not designed to directly address the one core question that festers in the minds of many voters: "Why should we add another vice?"

You see, given the thesis of this book, the irony is that one of the pri-



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In California's medical marijuana community, Kush is Cannabis King. And now the most successful Kush growers are using a Kush-specific bloom booster to satisfy patient demand for premium-grown Kush medicine.

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These valuable compounds include THC, cannabidiol, aromatics, terpenoids, essential oils and resins that individually and together have a wide range of therapeutic effects.

So how does the Kush bloom booster work? By feeding the specific Kush metabolic pathways and processes that produce larger, more potent Kush buds.

What Makes Your Kush Tick & How Can You Give Your Harvest Value a Kick?

Hydroponics experts at Advanced Nutrients saw that Kush is a must-have for the medical community, so company co-founder Michael "Big Mike" Straumietis asked his team of plant scientists to immediately find what makes Kush tick and what fires up its flower-making machinery.

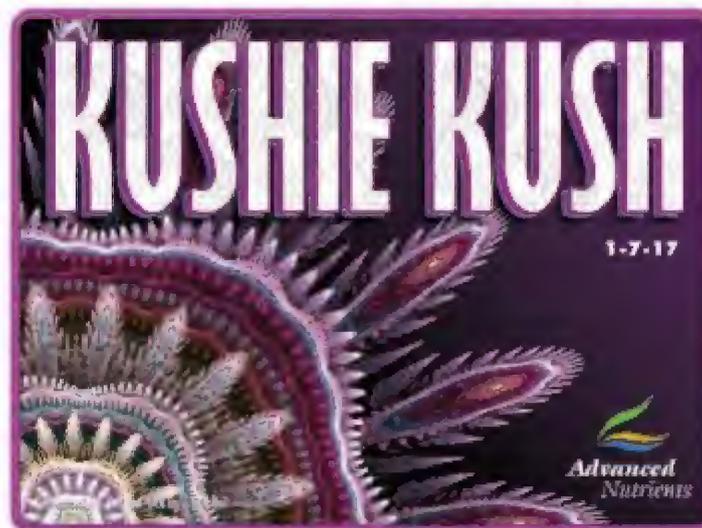
First the scientists gathered a vast array of seeds and clones of the most popular Kush sub-varieties and grew them in test labs.

Every day they took plant tissue samples to discover

how nutrient inputs and other supplementation affects Kush yield, potency, taste and aroma.

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Scientists grew dozens of Kush plants to discover the precise bloom booster ingredients that make larger, more valuable Kush flowers.

Get the Advantages of Kush-Specific Ingredients

One thing to notice is that while Kush growers have spent many years and dollars using other bloom products, never before has anyone given Kush cultivators a bloom booster that specifically pumps more value, yield and potency into their beloved Kush buds.

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Sailors may love rum, but Mason thinks they'd be safer sailing the high seas.

many reasons why citizens are denied the legal use of marijuana is because of alcohol—or, more specifically, because of the negative attributes associated with the abuse of alcohol. The American people are all too familiar with the range of alcohol-related problems, from health-care expenditures to lost productivity to reckless and violent behavior. While they are not clamoring for a return to alcohol prohibition and, for the most part, consider alcohol a fun recreational substance when used in moderation, they recognize that alcohol use does not come without significant costs. So logically—or at least it appears logical on the surface—people ask, “If alcohol causes so much damage to society, why should we encourage the use of another intoxicating substance?”

It is our contention that this single concern often outweighs all of the traditional arguments put forth by marijuana-policy-reform advocates. Simply put, many Americans are afraid of the idea of adding the *perceived* dangers associated with marijuana to a society that is already reeling from the *known* harms associated with alcohol. Further, according to national and state survey data, approximately one-fifth to one-third of Americans consider pot to be *more harmful* than booze. Another one-

third of the population believes that marijuana is at least as dangerous as alcohol. Stop to consider that for a moment. Given all that we know about the dangers of alcohol—many of which we’ve described in detail—there are still many, if not a majority, of Americans who mistakenly believe that weed is as bad as or even *worse* than booze. So is it really surprising that the public’s support for marijuana legalization remains mired below 50 percent nationally?

Faced with this current reality, marijuana-legalization advocates have two options. The first option is to demonstrate—in a far more powerful and convincing manner than they have so far—that the harms associated with the criminal prohibition of marijuana far outweigh the harms of marijuana itself. The second option is to persuade the American people that the use of cannabis is not only *less* harmful than they currently believe, but that making it available to adults could actually *reduce* the use of a more harmful substance. To accomplish either one of these goals—but especially the latter—it is necessary to juxtapose the harms of marijuana against the harms of alcohol. ✦

Learn more about the book, and get involved in SAFER-style activism, at marijuanaissafer.com.

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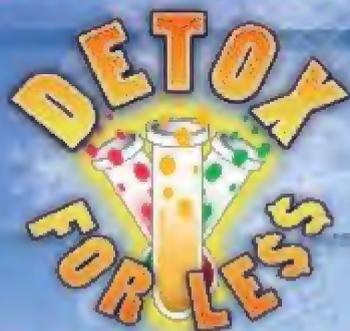
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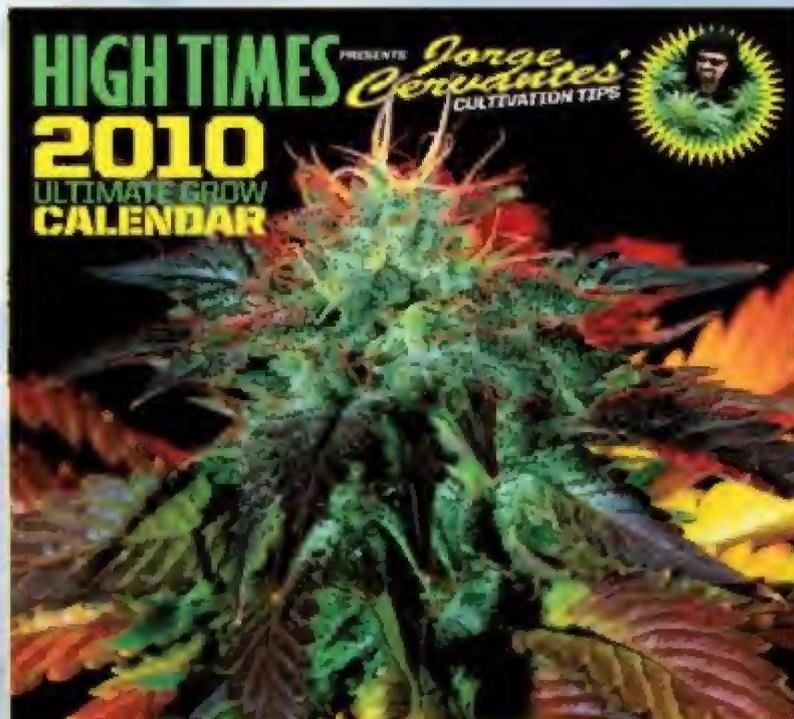
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**HIGH TIMES
OCTOBER 2010**

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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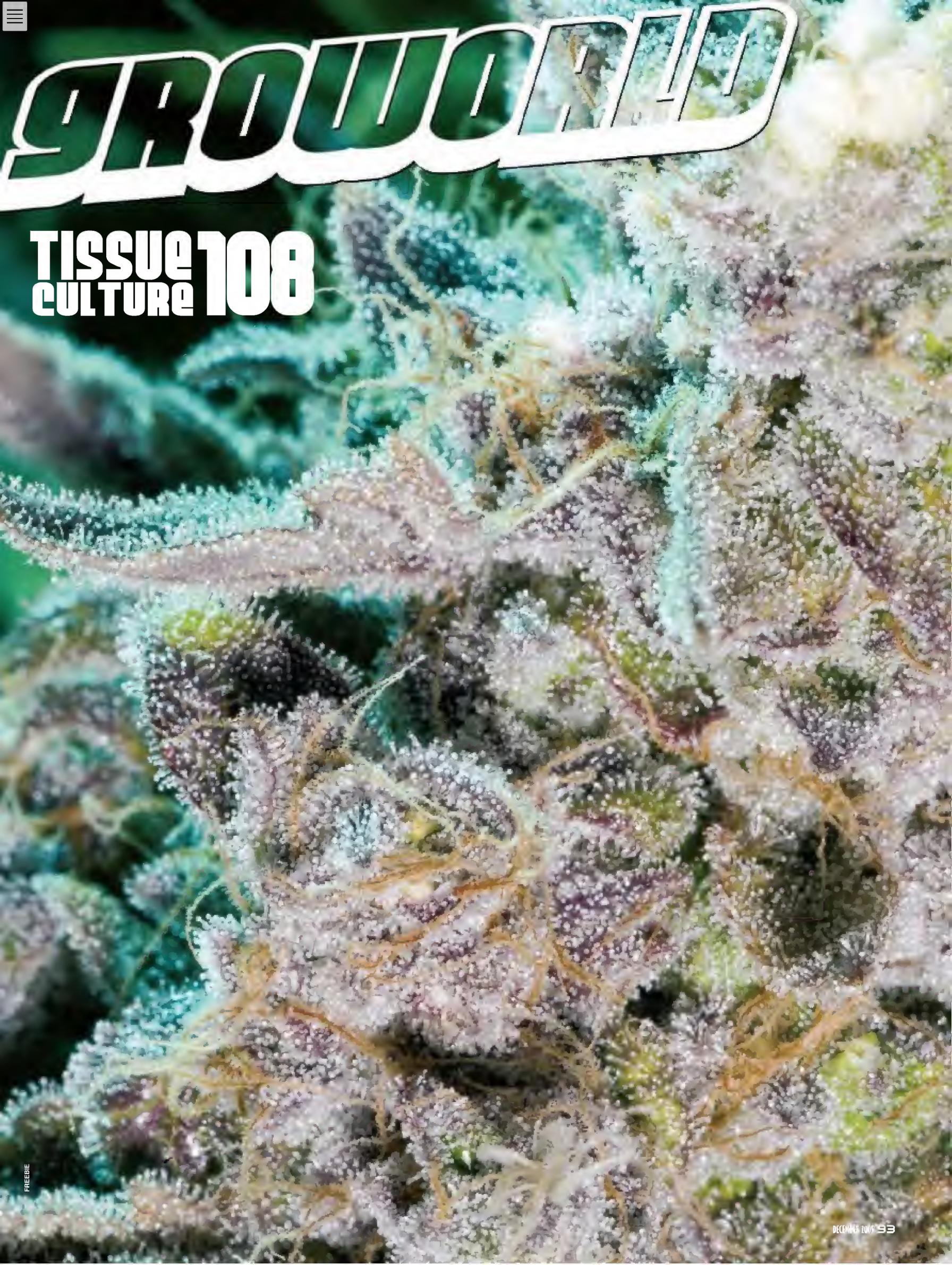
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JARS ATTACK

(above) Here's a shot from my medical garden. With a little effort, a spare bedroom and a whole lot of care, we can all grow our own. Stay green from Sunny California!—JTR

CAT'S EYE VIEW

(left) This was a good friend of mine's baby. Thought you guys might enjoy the shot.—Joel MacPherson



KING'S COLA

Once again, it's me, T Money, this time with the Lemon Skunk plant. This one is my favorite from the taste alone. It's Green House genetics and quite amazing. Hope you enjoy!—TM\$

A



FUNKY SKUNK

This is some Skunk from my area about to get smoked. Thanks!—Ryan



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

(above) This is G-13 x White Widow x Big Bud grown in an Aeroflow garden. The biggest bud was 6 ounces dry.—Denver, CO

GENETIC GIFT

(left) This was a Strawberry Cough mutant that we grew. Tasted so good! Hope you like it as much as we did. Thanks for looking!—M

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to maibag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our mini-section, devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic*!

Cancer & Medical Marijuana

I'm always hesitant to write on these kinds of topics, since I am not—by any stretch of the imagination—a doctor. But as a journalist and long-time grower, I *can* report on both my research and my own experiences with cannabis as medicine. I have, unfortunately, known (and still know) many people with cancer. Some have survived their battle with this aggressive disease, while others have not been as fortunate. However, aside from the ultimate outcome, the most important aspect of dealing with cancer is how it affects the quality of life during treatment.

Pain can be an excruciating part of any serious ailment. Recovering from surgery, or especially the radiation and chemotherapy treatments used in fighting cancer, can be very trying for the patient, both physically and mentally. In all of these instances, cannabis can provide definite relief. In fact, there are even some studies showing that marijuana can actually help to reduce—and, in some instances, help to prevent—tumor formation. But as I have said, I'm not a doctor, and with every positive report of this kind, there is another, conflicting study that claims to show the opposite. While we all would like to believe in the promise that cannabis has shown in preventing or diminishing serious illnesses such as cancer, the only true fact we can rely on at this point is that it *will* relieve pain and help to lessen many of the other side effects of cancer treatment.

Cannabis indica, one of the three species of the cannabis genus or family, is most effective when used medicinally to alleviate physical pain, nausea and appetite loss. We also know that marijuana usually elevates depressed moods as well. For some patients, *Cannabis sativa* may be preferred in this regard.

A 1997 report by the British

This silky white Afghani will provide some of the strongest *indica* effects on the planet.



MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH AFGHANI

The mother of all *indicas*, the pure Afghani is a landrace strain indigenous to the Mazar-i-Sharif region of Afghanistan, though it's also found in northern parts of India and some areas of the Middle East. An absolutely superb strain to work with in breeding, a true "Afghanica" is 100% *indica*, with a pungently raw and skunky odor.

Many hybridization projects try to find the perfect blend of *indica* and *sativa* characteristics, creating a more balanced high. But medically speaking, pure Afghani buds possess a very valuable property in their sedating, pain-killing effects. Used medicinally to fight the pain associated with serious illnesses such as cancer and HIV/AIDS, the pure Afghani provides a very strong body stone. Properly bred, this phenotype can still be expressed while new phenotypes for taste and smell are introduced, making the Afghani's medicinal value even higher for caregivers.

This plant grows short and is best suited for mountain climates, though she'll do just fine indoors. She has a short flowering time and high THC level, making her a great stand-alone plant to populate entire gardens with. (And by the way, see our Letters page for more information on the terms "Afghani" versus "Afghan"!)

Medical Association and a 1999 report by the Institutes of Medicine concluded that cannabis does greatly reduce the side effects associated with chemotherapy treatments, with both reports noting the anti-nausea properties associated with cannabis. And on top of its anti-emetic advan-

tages, cannabis can—as we all know from the typical stoner stereotypes—stimulate appetite (i.e., the munchies). While this is sometimes a source of humor for Hollywood films, I can assure you that for patients having problems eating or in the grip of "wasting syndrome,"

this can be a very valuable tool on the road to recovery.

Still, though I hesitate to claim cancer-preventing or tumor-reducing properties for cannabis, I can attest to its pain-relieving and muscle- and mind-relaxing properties. The trick is to make sure you use the right kind for pain relief. This month's medical strain, Afghani—or any good hybrid thereof—is a perfect example of an excellent strain in this regard; so too are other *indicas* like the various Kushes, Blueberry, and most of the purple varieties (Granddaddy Purple, Purple Urkel, Grape Ape, etc.).

Marijuana Dispensaries Open In Rhode Island

In late August, the Rhode Island State Department of Health announced that medical-marijuana dispensaries will be opening in the state. Lawmakers voted 30-2 to allow *three* non-profit stores (hey, it's a tiny state!) to sell marijuana to chronically ill patients in a state-run program.

Rhode Island has become the third state this year to allow marijuana sales to patients. Although legislators had approved the use of medical marijuana with a doctor's prescription three years ago, no provisions in the law had allowed for dispensaries until now. The dispensaries in Rhode Island will have to install security systems and teach patients how to safely take the drug under new rules proposed by the state.

While marijuana remains illegal under federal law, the Obama administration has said that it won't target marijuana dispensaries complying with state law. In Rhode Island, the only way to get a cannabis prescription is from your private physician. Once you have the application completed, simply return it to the state registry program with your \$75 fee and you're set.

Under state law, eligible medical conditions for a prescription include such "debilitating" diseases as cancer, HIV and AIDS, glaucoma, hepatitis C and cachexia (wasting syndrome), as well as "severe, debilitating, chronic pain; severe nausea; seizures, including but not limited to, those characteristic of epilepsy; severe and persistent muscle spasms, including but not limited to, those characteristic of multiple sclerosis or Crohn's disease; and agitation of Alzheimer's disease." ✨

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

HIGH TIMES MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY DIRECTORY

Consult your local physician about issues associated with medical marijuana use.

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MEDICINAL TEA COOKIES

You can use a cupful of sugar to make this ganja medicine go down. By Ashley Boudreaux

People always ask me how I started writing for HIGH TIMES, and I generally avoid the part of the story where music editor Steve Bloom hissed at me over the phone in the late 90's for being both unprofessional *and* ambitious. I guess pitching a big feature article while smoking a bongload of Dutch hash in my friend's ridiculously large bathroom wasn't exactly following journalistic protocol. So "persistence" is generally what I tell people, although the truth is more complex—because the question shouldn't be *how* did you start writing for HIGH TIMES, but rather *why*?

The answer is that my super-straight-laced adoptive Army-pilot Dad contracted mesothelioma, an aggressive form of lung cancer. He was given five months to live and told to get his affairs in order, but he was stubborn as an old tortoise and stuck around for another nine and a half years. Somewhere about halfway through, though, his anti-nausea medications quit working. One by one they failed him—even the experimental anti-emetics stopped having any effect—and he was faced with a dilemma: Use weed or die.

Now this would be an obvious choice for most of us, but not so for my Dad. Until he tried cannabis, he'd been vehemently opposed to illicit drugs—and worse, when he finally did partake, he was paranoid that he'd be discovered and jailed for what little remained of his life. Think about it: The *one* thing keeping you alive might also very well result in your incarceration, where you would surely die away from all the people you love. That was my Dad's line of reasoning, so for him, using marijuana was a huge risk. But he took that perceived risk anyway, and he slowly came to resent the government that he'd spent his whole life serving for lying to him about marijuana. Nobody should have to make that choice—palliative-care



Delicious cookies that look like snowballs.

decisions are difficult enough without the fear of imprisonment.

My Dad passed away on Halloween Day 2001, but HIGH TIMES continues to give me a voice. And when I write, I always think of him, because I speak for him as well in these pages. He's gone now, but there are far too many people still walking in his shoes today.

One of those people is a woman here in Louisiana with terminal brain cancer. My friend Bill is acting as a compassionate caregiver for her, and he suggested this month's recipe. Four generations of Bill's family have made these Russian tea cookies for Christmas (albeit sans the cannabis). Russian tea cookies date back to the 1700s, but became most popular in the US during the 1950s. They're also known as Mexican wedding cookies, snowballs, polvorones and sandies.

Thanks for sharing your family recipe, Bill—and for keeping up the good fight. ✨

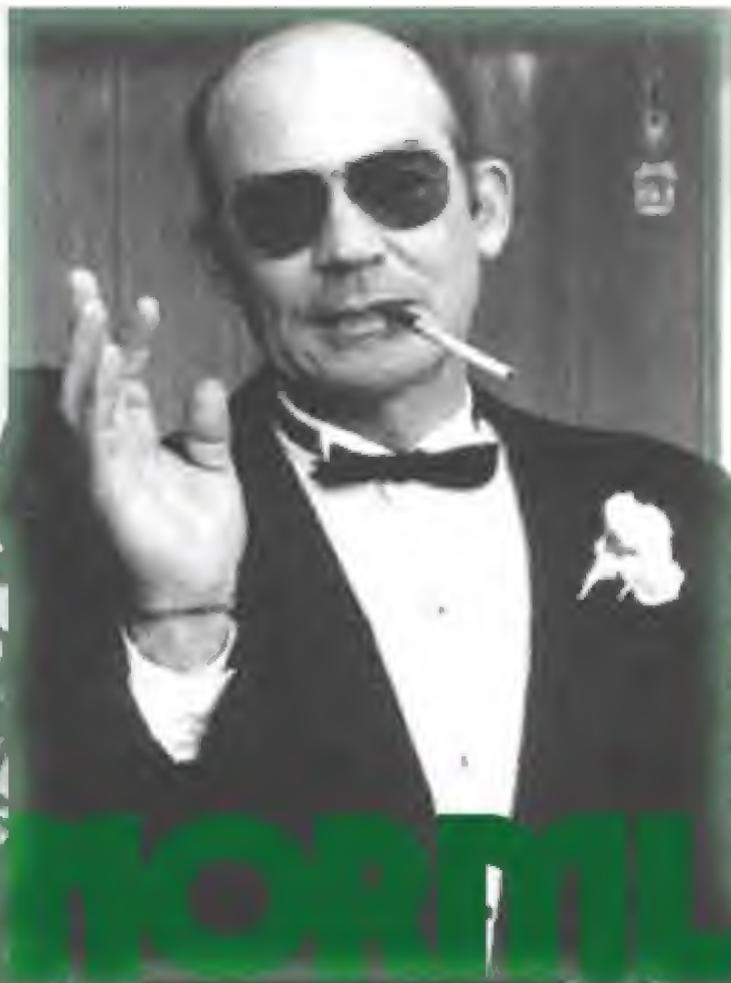
RUSSIAN TEA COOKIES

14-28 grams commercial-grade marijuana, cleaned and finely chopped
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter (preferably grade AA or Irish butter)
1¼ cup sifted confectioner's sugar

1 tsp real vanilla extract (imitation extract can leave a bitter taste)
2¼ cups sifted all-purpose flour
¼ tsp salt
¼ cup finely chopped nuts (pecans, walnuts or hazelnuts are best)

This recipe has a lot of room for play, since it uses a hefty amount of butter and makes roughly 24 to 36 cookies, depending on the cookie size. The less cannabis you use, the more cookies you'll need to get high, whereas the more you use, the fewer you'll need to eat—so keep that math in mind as you calculate the individual servings. (My own recommended dosage works out to roughly a gram per serving.) And be warned: These cookies are highly addictive even without the ganja!

In a double-boiler, combine cannabis and butter. Simmer on low for 45 minutes to one hour. Remove from heat and strain well. Add 1/2 cup of sifted confectioner's sugar and set the rest aside. Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour and salt, then slowly add it to the creamed mixture. Add nuts. Working with floured hands, form the dough into a round ball and refrigerate for at least an hour. Then form the dough into one-inch balls and bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 325°F until the edges start to brown. Remove from oven, let cool slightly, and then roll into the remaining powdered sugar. Will keep at room temperature for approximately one week. Stones 24-36.



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POT FIGHTS CANCER?

Only if you ask scientists. By Paul Armentano

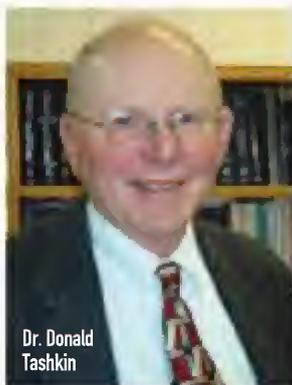
For 35 years, the federal government has been well aware—despite public denials by its own officials—that cannabis possesses potent anti-cancer and anti-tumor properties. Sadly, even under the Obama administration, which promised to “base our public policies on the soundest science,” the myth that pot promotes cancer persists. In fact, the White House’s website, whitehouse.gov, currently warns: “Marijuana has the potential to promote cancer of the lungs and other parts of the respiratory tract.”

Or not.

In a clinical abstract published by the medical journal *Cancer Prevention Research* in July, a team of US investigators reported—with absolutely no fanfare in the mainstream media—that lifetime marijuana use is associated with a “significantly reduced risk” of head and neck squamous-cell carcinomas.

Investigators at Rhode Island’s Brown University, along with researchers at Boston University, Louisiana State University and the University of Minnesota, assessed the lifetime marijuana-use habits of 434 cases compared to 547 matched controls, and reported that, “After adjusting for potential confounders (including smoking and alcohol drinking), 10 to 20 years of marijuana use was associated with a significantly reduced risk of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC).”

Of course, this isn’t the first time that researchers in the US have documented an *inverse* association between pot use and cancer. A separate 2006 popula-



Dr. Donald Tashkin

tion case-control study, funded by the National Institutes of Health and conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles, also reported that lifetime use of cannabis was not positively associated with cancers of the lung or aerodigestive tract, and further noted that certain moderate users of the drug experienced a *reduced* cancer risk compared to non-using controls.

Predictably, the federal government’s goal when green-lighting the UCLA study was to conclusively establish just the opposite result, as recently explained by its lead researcher, Dr. Donald Tashkin.

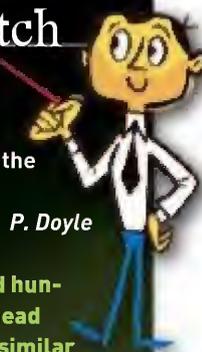
In an interview with the McClatchy newspaper chain in June, Tashkin admitted that he expected the study would find “a positive association between marijuana use and lung cancer What we found instead was no association at all, and even a suggestion of some protective effect.”

Perhaps that explains why mention of Tashkin’s study—the largest of its kind—is curiously absent from the White House website.

Tashkin added: “[A]t this point, I’d be in favor of legalization. I wouldn’t encourage anybody to smoke any substances, because of the potential for harm. But I don’t think it should be stigmatized as an illegal substance. Tobacco smoking causes far more harm. And in terms of an intoxicant, alcohol causes far more harm.” ✦

Paul Armentano is the Deputy Director of NORML and the co-author of Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch,
Can marijuana reduce the risk of cancer?

P. Doyle

Hi P.D.,
A new study compared hundreds of people with head and neck cancers to a similar group of people without them. Those who used the plant were less likely to be in the cancer group. We also know that cannabinoids battle tumors. It might be too soon to recommend cannabis use in a cancer-prevention program, but as far as head and neck cancers are concerned, it certainly isn’t increasing the risk.

I’m a bodybuilder. Can smoking pot help me put on the pounds?

Lou Hulcz

Hi Lou,
Although THC is great for enhancing appetite, it’ll only help you increase muscle mass if your munchies comprise lean sources of protein and other healthy foods.

I feel like pot helps me see 3-D movies better. Is that possible?

Howie3

Hi Howie,
Could be! One case study I know involved a guy who had no depth perception until he started using cannabis. And a classic study back in the ’70s found that many people perceived the world as being more vibrantly three-dimensional after several tokes. Hope you enjoyed the flicks!

Is a positive pee-test result possible just from sitting in a room full of folks who are getting high?

Janet K.

Hi Janet,
It’s possible, but not very likely. If the urine screen was within a day of the experience, and the room as smoky as the inside of a bong, then yes; otherwise, it’s just not going to happen. Of course, if your friends decided to vaporize, it would lower the chances to just about zero.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents’ Guide to Marijuana. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Corina Amato is Baltimore’s new watchdog. By Russ Belville

Freedom lovers everywhere were shocked and saddened by the case of Mayor Cheye Calvo of Berwyn Heights, MD, whose dogs were killed by a drug task force executing a raid on the mayor’s home after a box of marijuana was delivered there. Calvo was innocent (the would-be smugglers actually worked at the shipping company), but that didn’t prevent the police from breaking down his door and then shooting and killing his two black Labrador retrievers—one in the back as it ran away from the commotion.

Since that tragedy over a year ago, NORML’s *Daily Audio Stash* has reported on many additional cases of unnecessary canicide by police serving marijuana warrants. Calvo’s case was extraordinary in that it involved the mayor of a town, but, unfortunately, it wasn’t unique: Dozens of people targeted for marijuana “crimes” have lost their beloved pets to similar acts of police brutality.

One such victim is this month’s Freedom Fighter, Corina Amato. Last June, acting on a tip from a confidential informant, Baltimore police served a warrant at Amato’s home while she and her husband were both at work. The cops knew the home contained a pet, but rather than follow protocol and contact Animal Control, they knocked on the front door to attract the dog, then pointed the barrels of their automatic rifles into the mail slot and fired. The dog, Jasmine, was wounded and ran upstairs to Amato’s bedroom, where the police followed and killed her.

Rest assured, Amato is fighting back, working to build the new Baltimore NORML chapter and creating the website WatchdogBaltimore.org to track police brutality in Charm City. Oh yeah, and in case you’re wondering, absolutely no marijuana was found in the raid.

Corina Amato’s interview can be heard on the Friday, June 19, episode of the Daily Audio Stash, archived on our website, stash.norml.org.



Corina Amato

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Tissue Culture 101

An introduction to advanced cloning techniques. Story & photos by Hue Gelder

After 3 weeks, a tiny tissue sample grows inside a jar and begins to show signs of its marijuana genetics. (See page 110 for the earlier developmental sequence.)

Introduction to Tissue Culture

“Tissue culture” is a method for replicating plant genetics using very small cuttings. Rather than maintaining a roomful of mother plants from which clones are made, tissue-culture labs use racks of sealed vessels, each containing one or more miniature “plantlets.” The plants are chemically induced to either multiply or root, depending on the hormones used in the gel in which they are suspended; once rooted, they can be transplanted as usual. Although tissue culture is just beginning to catch on within the cannabis community, there are a great many advantages to the method.

Why Tissue Culture?

Assuming that a grower can master so-called “sterile-culture techniques” (discussed in the following sections), tissue-culture micro-propagation offers some excellent advantages over mother-plant cloning. First, absolutely ridiculous numbers of plants (in the hundreds of thousands!) can be propagated within closets and small rooms with very minimal power requirements, as compared to those necessary for maintaining mother plants and racks of clones. Unlike cloning, which is limited by the amount of available space and electrical power, tissue culture’s capabilities are limited more by available man-hours and propagation vessels (i.e., sterile jars and lids).

Another advantage to tissue culture is that, depending on where the cutting is taken from the plant, it is possible to generate plant starts that are completely free of diseases and pests. This is because plants tend to grow faster than diseases and pests can colonize on fresh new growth. What this means for growers is that, if properly done, they can set up a pest- and disease-free operation even when working with clones of uncertain history and origin. To put it another way, tissue culture offers the potential of reliably starting with a clean slate of familiar genetics, even when taking cuttings from plants that are sickly or pest-ridden.

A third advantage worth mentioning pertains to the way these plants look and grow. Compared to a mother-plant cutting, the tissue-culture plant will

initially grow squat, branching into a miniature version of the adult plant and growing to a size that is determined by its environment. Assuming the grower transplants it into an ideal environment, there is a higher potential for nicer yields with more compact buds as compared to conventional propagation methods.

On the downside, however, is the issue of contamination. Anybody who has worked with mushroom cultivation can tell you that mastering sterile-culture techniques is akin to training in the martial arts—both require discipline and dedication. The problem is that you cannot see your enemy: Contamination caused by grower mistakes takes time to manifest, and by the time you can see it, it may be difficult to go back and determine just how it occurred. In general, meticulous note-takers tend to make better laboratory technicians.

A tricky source of contamination can rapidly take down an entire facility. To make matters worse, many sources of contamination can prove frustratingly elusive—experienced mushroom cultivators will tell you that you never quite stop learning all the possible sources of contamination. For this reason, tissue culture is the kind of method you’d want to try out as a hobby long before you intended to depend upon it for populating your grow space (or making a living as a grower). You have to be patient—and don’t expect to succeed on your very first try. Read as much as you can find on the subject of sterile-culture techniques and take plenty of notes, and you might eventually become so proficient in tissue-culture propagation that you can count your plant starts in the thousands—or even tens of thousands—per month.

If that sounds intriguing, consider this: A baby-food jar with gel and rooted plantlets inside can be turned upside-down or even dropped to the floor without significant fear of the gel or plantlets loosening or becoming damaged. In sharp contrast to all the precautions necessary when handling trays of delicate clones, baby-food jars filled with plantlets in a gelling agent are not only comparatively indestructible, but also far more compact: They can be thrown loosely into a backpack or packed tightly into a cardboard box—and even plucked from a shelf without disturbing their neighbors.



A typical starter kit for making "plant starts". Included are hormones, preservatives, tissue vessels and instructions.

The Cannabis Laboratory

The underlying idea behind tissue culture is simple, and so are the steps involved:

First, you need to create an enclosure with a grow space, and also a gel medium containing nutrients, sugar and hormones. The gelling agent provides a stable structure to hold these chemicals and gives the roots something to dig into. Using the proper plastic lids, baby-food jars are ideal for this purpose.

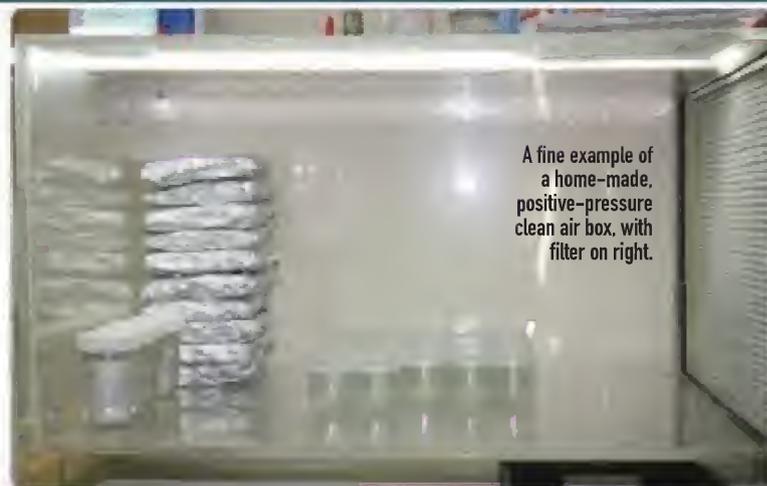
Next, you need to eliminate all contaminants by sterilizing your grow vessels (i.e., jars) using a standard kitchen pressure cooker.

A piece of the plant is then cut, and a regimen of semi-sterile tap-water, isopropyl and bleach washes are performed on the cutting in order to eliminate contaminants.

Next, make a sterile transfer of this semi-sterile plant cutting into its new home. This requires the use of a clean-air box. Hobbyists might avoid having to purchase or construct a clean-air box for a while, but professionals intent on efficient work will not want to do without one. Laboratory-grade clean-air boxes are actually surprisingly simple to make and can be constructed for less than \$500 in parts. Growers who wish to spare no expense can purchase more expensive laminar flow hoods on mycology websites.

Lit by T5 fluorescent bulbs, these micro-plants multiply inside the baby-food jars over the course of the next few weeks. As they do, the individual plantlets can be pulled apart within a sterile environment (i.e., the clean-air box) and transplanted into new jars. An incredible number of clones can be generated and cultured by repeating this process, with minimal lighting requirements—racks of T5's are all that is needed.

When it's time to turn the plantlets into actual plants in soil or hydro, new baby-food jars are prepared with extra rooting hormone in the gel, and a number of the plantlets are transferred into these new jars. The remainder of the plantlets are recycled back into the tissue-culture laboratory, where the process starts all over again. Once roots are established, the plants can be removed from the jars and transplanted into their new home.



A fine example of a home-made, positive-pressure clean air box, with filter on right.

Sterility & Clean-Air Boxes

Although we can't see them or feel them, we live in an ocean of microorganisms. They are in every cubic centimeter of the air you breathe, as well as all over your skin, embedded within your clothes and multiplying in countless environments around us. Some of the organisms eat dead skin for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and if you didn't know that they are microscopic, you might even be scared if you saw a picture of them.

Luckily, Nature has figured out ways for humans and plants to exist—and even thrive—while immersed in all of these creatures. But in many cases, Nature's ways aren't enough, and so scientists have developed a number of methods to defend against these contaminating microorganisms. For example, the creation of computer chips and laboratory-grown mushrooms, as well as the care of prematurely born babies, are all examples of special cases in which science has had to create thorough defenses against the natural population of contaminating microorganisms that we take for granted every day.

Tissue Culture 101



Dragon Tree (*Dracaena*) plant starts propagated from miniscule tissue samples in sealed jar using hormones and gel.

In all three cases, the concept of sterility is crucial. There is nothing about sterile-culture technique that is experimental or new: The same equipment and strategies successfully deployed for decades by indoor mushroom cultivators will also work for cannabis growers. Sterile-culture technique can do for plants what a protective bubble does for a premature baby: In both cases, we want to provide food, water and air so that the newborn can grow—but without also introducing dangerous, disease-carrying agents. Sterile-culture technique, at its essence, is simply the art of methodically defending against mi-



A cannabis tissue culture after 48 hours...

croscopic enemies by employing a strategy for eliminating contaminants. This is done using procedures for manipulating the flow of clean air (in a clean-air box, for instance), as well as effective techniques for introducing our baby into its new bubble home without bringing along unwanted microorganisms.

Some starter kits, such as the Super Starts micro-propagation kit (available from planttc.com), come with a very effective preservative. This allows for easy semi-sterile transfers—because even if contaminants do make it into the vessel during the transfer, the preservative will typically kill them. For enthusiasts and hobbyists, this makes a clean-air box much less necessary.

However, a clean-air box provides a means of ensuring that samples will not become contaminated as you work with them over time, which is very important for the purpose of creating a genetic library. In a clean-air box, air is blown at a quick rate through a professional 6-inch-thick HEPA filter.

(Whether or not the design includes an enclosure for capturing this fresh air at the filter output is somewhat optional.)

A decent-sized enclosure, such as an acrylic fish tank, can be used for holding large amounts of sterilized items—tools, water, baby-food jars, napkins—without fear of contamination. It isn't necessary to use gloves or have armholes in your clean-air box's design, since both tend to reduce maneuverability and thus accuracy. Instead, the important thing is to pay close attention to your sample, hands and filter—in general, your hands should never be placed between the filter and the sample. It also helps to shower, wear a lab coat, and frequently apply hand sanitizer to your arms and hands while working. Serious-minded clean freaks who don't own a lab coat will just work naked, fresh out of the shower!

In brief, one end of a clean-air box houses a fan that pushes air through a filter and over the workspace. The other end of the box is left open for the air to exhaust. The constant flow of clean air over the workspace creates what is called a "positive-pressure system," where contaminated air is constantly pushed out of the box, which is constantly refreshed with purified air. HEPA filters can also be used in the same manner to keep an entire genetic library sterile.

The Future of Cloning

It is not inconceivable that, in the future, the cannabis-clone industry could be rapidly overtaken by a handful of relatively small home laboratories—or large, warehouse-sized genetic banks, for that matter.

Historically speaking, some of the best-known cannabis strains became popular in part because their seeds were sent all over the world via mail order by seed banks. The ease of seed or clone dissemination is what ultimately governs the spread of a particular strain.

So imagine if growers were set up to both create and propagate from tiny bits of plant tissue. What would that do for the trade in cannabis genes? Essentially, entrepreneurs who managed to perfect the tissue-culture technique could, in theory, have a new method at their disposal for rapidly spreading superior plants with high-quality genetics, effectively one-upping seed and clone manufacturers. After all, it's a lot easier to store, send or travel with a few tiny plant cells versus packages of



... and the same jar sample after 8 days. (See 21 days on page 108.)

seeds or rooted clones. And growers might even be happy to pay a premium for this new means of genetic packaging, because the plants are already hardened and could be guaranteed to be female, compact, and free of pests and diseases.

Bill Graham, the founder of PlantTC.com, is one of the masterminds behind adapting the tissue-culture technique from the laboratory to the home. Although Bill's Super Starts kit wasn't designed with the cannabis industry in mind, these techniques work extremely well with marijuana. Listening to experts like Graham speak about their own success with tissue-culture micro-propagation—as well as the sheer scale of the numbers they've been able to produce—is overwhelming. Working with geraniums, and starting with a mere six mother plants, Graham and a couple of assistants were able to generate (in a surprisingly small facility) a staggering 650,000 rooted geraniums over the course of just *eight months*. Substitute the words "Kush plantlets" for "geraniums" and the picture starts to become clear, doesn't it?

Welcome to the future of cloning. ✨

For more information or materials, visit planttc.com, email kit@planttc.com or call 650-346-8009.

For more info or materials regarding clean-air boxes and sterile-culture techniques, check out these sites: fungiperfecti.com and <http://www2.mailordercentral.com/fungi/departments.asp?dept=36>.

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LED technology is still in its infancy when it comes to cannabis cultivation, and many of the models we've seen come in wattages that are way too low and have been manufactured overseas with shoddy materials. That's why we were so happy to receive the **Maxx Power**, a new unit that's high-powered, cost-effective and made in the USA. It's a completely modular, expandable unit with a built-in timer on the master cord, which means you're able to link up to 12 units together in different configurations for up to 1,440 watts of LED power. Plus the unique honeycomb shape saves valuable space in your garden or closet.

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It Ain't Over Till It's Over

By Chris Simunek

"We should stop using the metaphor about the War on Drugs. People look at it as a war on them, and frankly, we're not at war with the people of this country."

—Gil Kerlikowske, head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, June 2009.

There seems to be a lot of optimism in the air regarding an imminent softening of cannabis laws by the nascent Obama administration. We hope that the above statement by the new Drug Czar represents a change in policy rather than a simple shift in rhetoric. But in the same speech that provided the above quote, Kerlikowske ruled out legalization. So what exactly can we expect regarding reform? Your guess is as good as mine.

Without a doubt, the war is still going on right at this very minute. And here are a few recent cases that we, the anti-prohibitionists, should be conscious of before we start picking out what outfits we're going to wear to the big victory parade. All have occurred on Obama's watch.

There are the high-profile federal cases in California, such as Eddy Lepp, who was sentenced in May to 10 years for growing pot in Lake County for medical and religious purposes, and Charles Lynch, who, while avoiding the five-year mandatory minimum the Feds wanted to give him for running a medical dispensary in Morro, was still sentenced to a year in federal prison in June.

Another case that didn't grab too many headlines is the sentencing of Andrew N. Cox, a Georgia native, to life without parole in Gainesville, FL, last March. Cox was convicted twice before on trafficking marijuana. Remember "three strikes, you're out"? Well, Cox is now as out as out can be. He was using a landscaping business as a cover for his operation, and when the cops caught up with him, he had 724 seedlings getting started on a property owned by his father and another 594 plants in grow spots in the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia. When he was indicted back in January of 2005, he fled. For three years, he

Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske: Reformer, or Satan in a Sunday suit?



remained a fugitive until the Feds tracked him down in Florida. At his sentencing, US Attorney David E. Nahmias had this to say:

"This defendant was a twice-convicted drug trafficker who has now received his third and final strike. His life sentence is just punishment for a career in the illegal drug trade, which most recently led him to exploit and degrade national forest land. He will have no more chances to poison our communities with illegal drugs, and his sentence should send a message that our national forests are not a safe haven for crime. The U.S. Forest Service is to be commended for its hard work in this difficult prosecution, made even more challenging by the passage of time while this defendant was a fugitive."

Nahmias's anger toward Andrew Cox seems to come not from the fact that he grew weed, but because he "exploited and degraded" our national park land. I wonder if the former owners, the Creek and Cherokee Indians, sleep any better now that they know the land robbed from them is being so well protected by the Feds.

Last May, a 22-year-old man

named Tracy Howard was sentenced to 20 years in the Texas Department of Corrections—the maximum sentence allowed—after he was caught with 50 pounds. Howard did not go to trial; instead, he pled guilty and threw himself on the mercy of the court.

Commenting on the sentence, District Attorney David Sheffield noted that "a strong message is being sent about drug crimes in Hardin County." I like to imagine that after Sheffield made this announcement, he tipped his cowboy hat to the assembled crowd and snarled, "Don't mess with Texas, y'all."

The last case I want to bring to your attention concerns a man who is no stranger to judicial gang rape. You might be familiar with Will Foster, the man from Tulsa, OK, who was sentenced to 93 years for growing pot back in 1995. If not, his case went as follows: Foster, then a 36-year-old computer programmer with three kids, had a 25-square-foot garden in which he grew the marijuana that he used to ease the chronic pain of his rheumatoid arthritis. The cops came to his door with a warrant, based on a tip from an anonymous informant, to search

for methamphetamines, which they did not find. They did, however, locate the garden in a locked basement. Convinced that the warrant was bad, Foster refused a plea deal. Despite no evidence that he sold any of the marijuana, a jury convicted him of cultivation with the intent to distribute, and he was sentenced—in part because he had an 11-year-old daughter on the premises—to 93 years. On appeal, a jury found that the verdict "shocks our conscience" and reduced the term to 20 years. Foster was released in 2001 on the condition that he serve out his parole in another state. Soon after, he relocated to California.

In California, Foster completed three years of parole, however, Oklahoma said that this was not long enough and have continuously issued warrants in efforts to get him back to finish out six more years of parole there. Foster has fought extradition before, due to Oklahoma warrants, and won by writ of habeas corpus.

Foster lived in Santa Rosa with his daughter, now a college student. There he grew a small medical garden under the guidelines of Proposition 215. A jealous ex dropped a dime on him and when the DEA raided his house, they found the garden and small amounts of ecstasy and methamphetamine that he claimed were not his and he knew nothing about. Foster's girlfriend, who was present with her young daughter, refused to give up other growers they said she knew. The state arrested and charged her the same as Foster and placed her daughter in Child Protective Services custody. After many months and several court appearances the local DA dropped charges against Foster and his girlfriend. However, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a warrant from Oklahoma demanding Foster be returned to that state to serve out the rest of his 20-year sentence on a parole violation—the parole that he completed to California's satisfaction, but not to Oklahoma's. Foster has been in jail in California since April 13, 2008, fighting extradition with another writ of habeas corpus.

Will Foster lost his family over the years, his life has been all but destroyed, and today he sits in jail in California because of a five-by-five-foot marijuana garden that the cops found him with 14 years ago. If you think the war is over, guess again. ✨

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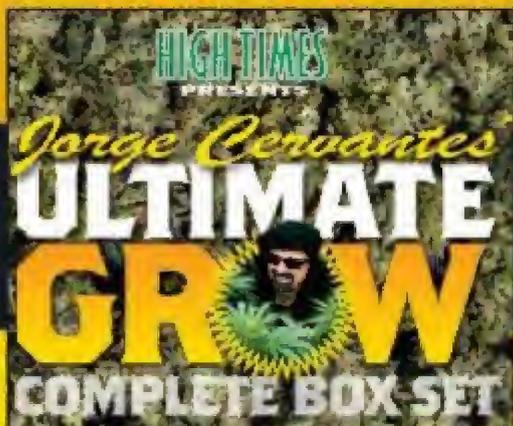
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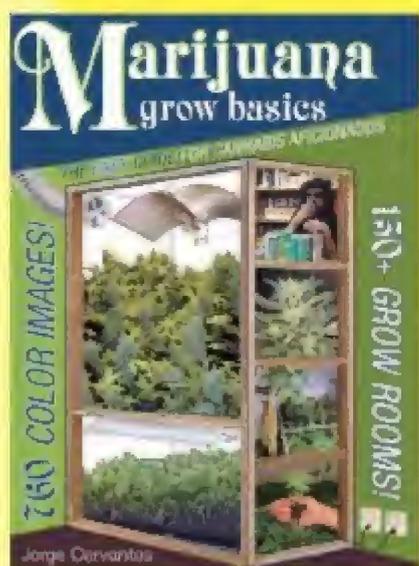
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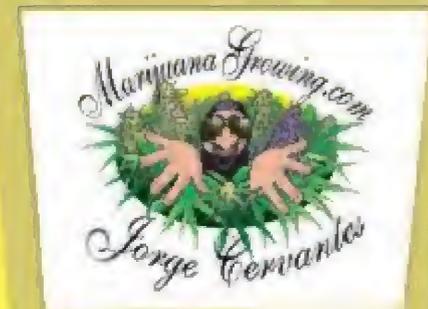
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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

We figure Jorge's earned at least a gram of bud for every ganja growing project he's inspired or helped salvage. Be sure to gift him some next time you see him in a garden near you!

JORGE'S FAREWELL

Dear loyal readers,

It's been 10 years since I started this monthly column. I've decided to stop writing it for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I'm completely burned out from answering questions. I feel that it's time to pass the joint on to another qualified columnist so you can inhale fresh new ideas, feelings and directions. Ten years is long enough—I have answered many new (as well as loads of old and/or similar) questions month after month. The new guy will provide you with a bright new outlook and perspective, as well as plenty of ideas that will help you in your growing endeavors.

You're probably wondering what I'll be doing next. Well, I'm going to take it easy for a while—think, meditate and move forward on some new growing projects. Writing this column has been inspiring, fun and demanding, but now it's time to take a break and remember that change is good. Even I need a sabbatical every decade or so!

I don't like long, smoky, red-eyed goodbyes, so this is it for now. I'm passing the spliff to Danny Danko, my handpicked choice as my successor for this column. I have the utmost confidence in his ability to help the growers of the world.

¡Viva la planta!
Jorge Cervantes

HIGH HONOR

It's truly humbling and quite an honor to take over the Q&A column from the esteemed Jorge Cervantes, who taught me to grow all those years ago. My new section, "Dear Danko," debuts here and now in the December 2009 issue, with brand-new questions and answers as well as photographs illustrating various plant maladies and the solutions to grow problems.

The whole HIGH TIMES family wishes to extend our love and respect to Jorge. We know his wonderful work will appear in our pages soon in the form of feature articles and eye-popping photographs from future travels and experiences.

Adios, Jorge!

Your friend,
Danny Danko

CLONING A FLOWERING PLANT

I have an exceptional plant flowering, but I neglected to take a cutting during the vegetative stage in order to make a mother plant. Can I take a clone now and keep this incredible variety alive? I'm in week five of the flowering stage. Thanks for any advice!

Clone Free

Dear Clone Free,
While it is possible to clone a plant at any stage in

its life, cloning during flowering can be a difficult and frustrating process. The cutting will need weeks—perhaps even months—to recover, make vegetative shoots and give off new clones. I've tried this process myself and wouldn't recommend it except under the direst circumstances.

Here's what to do: Simply take the cutting as you would any other, put it under 18 to 24 hours of light in a warm, humid environment, and then wait—for quite a while. Eventually, long after the clone has rooted, you'll see shoots emerge from the bud. I recommend taking another cutting from one of those shoots if you intend to make a mother plant, since the cloned flower will forever be suffering from the stress of transitioning back and forth from flowering to vegging. Good luck!

COLD COMFORT

I live in Canada, and believe it or not, I have a heat problem. My grow space is a 2' x 4' x 6' closet. I use two can-style fans at 150 cfm each. One is to bring in fresh air only, and it runs on an off-and-on cycle of 10 minutes every half hour. The other sucks the internal air out through a charcoal filter, then through a cool tube with a 600-watt high-pressure sodium



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DEAR DANKO



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(HPS) light inside, then directly outside. I also have two 6-inch fans mounted on my cool tube that circulate the internal air constantly. But my temps are still in the high 80's, sometimes even in the 90's. Although the heat is high, the humidity stays at 55% to 65%. Any advice on lowering temps would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

Overheated in the Great White North

Dear Overheated,
Sounds like you need an air conditioner. You seem to have plenty of air movement, so I'd recommend either a window unit in the room that the closet is in or a stand-alone AC blowing directly into the grow space.

THRIPPING OUT

I have a problem with thrips and I don't know what to do. I've tried spraying with pesticides and they still come back. I've tried insect bombs and they still come back. Nothing I do seems to work—how can I rid myself of these crazy critters?

Weedless in Wyoming

Dear Weedless,
Thrips—the tiny, cigar-shaped insect species from the order *Thysanoptera*—are a plague on cannabis plants second only to spider mites. They pierce the cell walls of leaves and drain them of the essential fluids needed to maintain healthy growth. They also leave behind a shiny trail on leaf tops as if they were tiny slugs. In addition to sucking out valuable juices inside the plant, thrips carry and transmit diseases known as *tospoviruses* that cause necrotic spots and can

Thrips like to travel along the spines of leaves.



eventually destroy a whole garden.

Thrips are very difficult to eradicate completely, but it isn't hard to control them and keep their damage to a minimum. There are natural predators you can use, but I'd like to share a personal recipe. Put three drops of Einstein Oil into a quart of warm water along with two drops of dish soap. Shake it up and spray it all over the leaves, top and bottom. Also be sure to dip a cotton swab into this solution and use it to get in between the

pletely, but it isn't hard to control them and keep their damage to a minimum. There are natural predators you can use, but I'd like to share a personal recipe. Put three drops of Einstein Oil into a quart of warm water along with two drops of dish soap. Shake it up and spray it all over the leaves, top and bottom. Also be sure to dip a cotton swab into this solution and use it to get in between the leaf ribs and the hard-to-reach spots where mature thrips will hide, such as where the leaf meets the stem.

This won't kill them right away; instead, it makes them infertile and interrupts the breeding cycle. Spray this solution once a week to keep their population in check. Then be patient, and you won't be Weedless much longer.

POPPING OLD SEEDS

First off, thank you, HT, for being around all this time. I'm an old reader from back in the '70s and miss reading about reefer and the life related to it.

I haven't indulged in well over a decade, but prior to that I was an avid user and saved various seeds from different stock (at least eight or nine types, including some sensimilla from my time). They've been in a sealed container and appear to be in good shape even after 20-plus years.

My question is: Are these worth growing at all? At age 50 and out of the loop as a purchaser, it's hard to get into it again. Would these still produce a good crop for personal needs? I know this is very little info to go on, but any suggestions you have would be great.

Thanks in advance and best regards,

Ed

Dear Ed,

Very intriguing! The truth is, you'll never know how good the genetics are until you pop the seeds and grow them out. I love to hear stories like this, because many strains that were thought to be extinct have been revived under similar circumstances. You just may be sitting on a treasure trove of cannabis DNA.

Your best bet once the seeds are popped and grown out is to take a cutting of each and flower out the clones. You'll be able to determine the sex of the plants as well as the quality of the bud they produce. The original seedlings can then be used as mother plants to produce as many copies of your favorite strain as you need, for as long as you wish.

Or you could always send the beans along to the HIGH TIMES testing facility. Just kidding—now get growing!

TOXIC INJECTION

I've heard that at harvest time, injecting potassium into the buds while they're hanging upside down will make them crystallize more. Is this true?

DDC

Dear DDC,

By no means should you do anything of the sort. Like the wonderful Walt "Clyde" Frazier would say, "That's ill advised!" Not only will it damage the harvested bud, but I have no idea how one would go about doing this to begin with. The amount of crystals depends entirely on genetics and how well you grow, and nothing you do at harvest time can alter this.



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DEAR DANKO

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UNDERAGE SEX

How can I tell the sex of my plants when they're young?

Chuckyray

Dear Chuckyray,
 This has got to be among the top five questions we get. The fact of the matter is that pot plants don't truly show their sex until they begin flowering. Pre-flowers do start to show earlier, usually below the fourth or fifth node on a vegetative plant, but a beginner will have a hard time determining sex accurately from those early, tiny indicators.

There's no getting around the fact that pot growing is for the patient. There aren't many valid shortcuts to cut down on the sheer amount of time you will spend in the growroom. You should plan on growing your plants vegetatively for at least a few weeks, then switch to a 12/12-hour day/night light cycle for flowering and monitor them closely. Within a couple of weeks, you should be able to determine their sex and rid yourself of the males. Females will form flowers that initially resemble tiny cotton balls with white hairs emerging, while males will look like small yellow bunches of bananas. Be sure to remove and destroy the males before they mature and drop their pollen, unless you want a harvest full of seeds.

Of course, you could always grow out feminized seeds or take clones from a known female plant in your garden, but these are things you'll pick up on once you stop trying to outwit nature.

BIGGER YIELDS

What strain or strains yield the most under a 250-watt HPS? I have two Aerogardens under it and will eventually add another 400- to 1,000-watt light. I have a connect overseas for seeds but don't know what strain would be best to grow. Thanks for your help!

Tim

Dear Tim,

Typically, plants that are mostly *indica* will yield a bit more than *sativa*-dominant varieties. These would include such stalwarts as Sensi Star, God Bud, MK-Ultra and Mazar-i-Sharif. The size of your harvest is also determined by the amount of time you choose to keep your plants in the vegetative stage, as well as your skills as a gardener.

Always remember, however, that growing isn't about quantity over quality, but rather the opposite. Some of the tastiest and stoniest strains take a bit longer to flower and grow wispier than others. Bigger isn't always better, so be sure to choose strains that you and your friends enjoy smoking and, if need be, add a week or two of vegetative time in order to bulk them up a bit.

WAITING GAME

How fast can I make my plants bud?

Odyssey

Dear Odyssey,

There's nothing you can do to speed up the flowering process. This is a basic genetic trait of the seed or clone you're growing from; typically, most plants take anywhere from six to 10 weeks to complete the process once it has begun.

Growing pot requires patience. I've been asked many times about speeding up the process, but I find this a flawed way of approaching the subject. Plants have a natural cycle, and interrupting it or messing with it too much seems inherently unnatural and just plain wrong. If you really want a quick-flowering plant, get yourself an *indica*-dominant strain that stays short and stocky and typically matures within eight weeks or less. Good luck!

PLANT LIMITS

Hi—just a quick question. I have a large shed with heaps of height, but I only want to grow a maximum of two plants for legal reasons over here in Australia. I'd like to produce the maximum poundage per cycle. I'll be growing Power Plant from Dutch Passion, and my question is what light

BRIAN JAHN

or lights should I use? Any help you can give would be great.

MR in JP

Dear MR,

I would suggest growing your two plants under either one 1,000-watt or two 600-watt HPS or MH (metal halide) lights. In order to yield the amount you're looking for, the planting containers must be large enough to support a massive root system, and you'll need to grow your plants out in the vegetative stage for anywhere from several weeks to a month.

As for containers, don't grow them in anything smaller than a 5-gallon bucket. I would recommend going even bigger, say with Rubbermaid-type tubs that can hold up to 25 gallons of soilless mix. This provides room for the roots to thrive, thus making them able to support a much larger plant aboveground.

Assuming that you're growing from seed, you'll need to keep your plants under at least 18 hours of light per day until you feel the time is right to lower the amount of light to 12 hours in order to induce flowering. Depending on the size of your containers and the ultimate height you want for your plants, this could entail over a month of vegetative growth. I take it that you want monster plants, but keep in mind that they'll continue to stretch after flowering is induced. Good luck!

PAIN RELIEF STRAIN

What kind of medical marijuana would be best to grow for pain? To be more specific, I've had three back surgeries since 1996, and with each one, the pain just seems to get worse. The doctors don't seem to want to do anything for the pain, and I can't take it anymore. I'm only 44 years old, and I've been on Social Security disability since the first surgery. I now suffer from depression and panic attacks in addition to the constant pain, which keeps me from functioning most days. I don't want to eat or even get out of bed. I'm 6 feet tall and down to 150 pounds. I hope you can help me out—if I get an answer, I'm sure I'll have more questions about growing later on. And thanks!

D. Clegg

Dear D.,

What a heartbreaking story—and one we see repeated over and over around the world as weary patients wait for compassion from doctors more interested in peddling pills and politicians too scared to support medical marijuana, all knowing full well that it works.

As for the best strain to use for pain, I recommend something *indica*-dominant like Cheese, Sensi Star, MK-Ultra or LA Confidential. *Indicas* provide much more of a body high that seems to work best for pain relief; *sativas* tend to be the headier high, with more of an "up" feeling, which is why they generally work better for patients suffering from nausea or depression. Some extreme *sativas* can even induce panic attacks, which you're suffering from as well. So stick with an *indica* if pain relief is your greatest concern.

Good luck, and please do what you can to help enact a medical-marijuana law in your area (if there isn't one already). Too many people like you are still suffering! ✨

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1) After a successful harvest, marijuana growers can use otherwise discarded ____ to make homemade hashish.

- a) stems
- b) fan leaves
- c) roots
- d) seeds

2) Marijuana plants begin to flower when they receive less than ____ hours per day of light.

- a) 18
- b) 16
- c) 12
- d) 8

3) Insufficiently watered plants will ____.

- a) turn bright orange
- b) curl up at the tips of the leaves
- c) become rigid
- d) grow bigger roots

4) A healthy root system appears ____ in color.

- a) brown
- b) black
- c) gray
- d) white

5) The ideal humidity level for drying cannabis is ____.

- a) 20% to 30%
- b) 45% to 55%
- c) 65% to 75%
- d) 80% to 90%



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Identify this growing medium.

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- b) coco peat
- c) expanded clay pellets
- d) compost pile
- e) bat guano



5-POINT BONUS

Identify this strain.

- a) Northern Lights
- b) Island Sweet Skunk
- c) Blueberry
- d) Cheese
- e) NYC Diesel



5-POINT BONUS

This growroom is an example of ____.

- a) hydroponics
- b) super cropping
- c) FIM technique
- d) none of the above

For the answers to this month's grow quiz, to calculate your HIGH-Q, and to take even more grow quizzes online, visit hightimes.com/growquiz/.

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DECEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR

INDOORS

What a wonderful time of year to grow plants—provided that you're indoors, working in your "home office." But beware: On the coldest nights of winter, the humidity can skyrocket. Letting the temperature drop or the humidity rise, even briefly, can seriously stress your plants, so check the temperature and relative humidity rates in your garden frequently. Measure both temp and humidity an hour after the lights go out for an accurate reading of what's really happening in your room. Also, check the temperature of your nutrient solution to make sure you're not giving your precious herb plants a cold bath!



Tightly sealed jars work best for storage.

OUTDOORS

Spend the winter months getting prepared for next season. Start by checking your stored seeds, making sure they're in a cool, dry, dark location. In the refrigerator, pack seeds in an airtight container with moisture-absorbing silicon crystals. If you're planning to

grow clones, make sure you'll have them on hand and ready to plant the first day that weather permits.

Meanwhile, if you've got a bunch of stored buds left over from last fall's harvest, check them too, lest they develop mold that will methodically eat away at your hard-earned stash. Make sure the buds are properly dried and cured, and use a magnifying glass to check for early signs of moldy trouble.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Check it out: Make a detailed checklist of all your daily and weekly tasks in the growroom and post it prominently inside the garden. This will help you stay highly organized and in tune with your plants' needs, which is key to properly caring for your garden and avoiding problems before they start.



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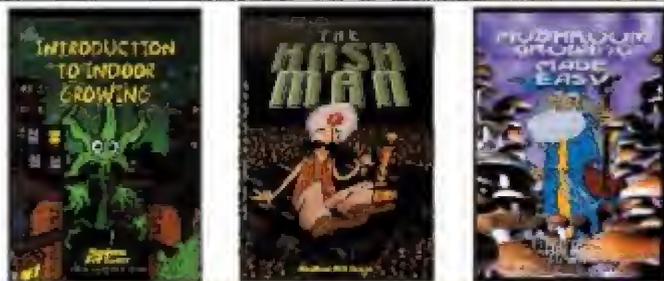
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NOW'S THE TIME!

As the weather turns colder, crafty cannabis growers are turning their attention indoors, where high-intensity lights power highly productive cultivation operations that yield big buds with incredible potency. Next month, HIGH TIMES' resident grow experts offer up a detailed overview of everything you'll need to set up your own indoor grow. Find seeds and clones, construct your grow space, set up your lights, decide between soil and hydro, feed your plants—and then harvest in high style!

THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION

Environmental perfection is the aim of these growers: They called in professional contractors, plumbers, electricians and HVAC guys to build one of the most perfectly designed growrooms we've ever seen. Loaded with rows of Grape Ape, Blackberry Kush and Chocolope, the Mothership is a stoner Garden of Eden.

ALANIS MORISSETTE'S WORLD

The career of superstar songbird Alanis Morissette has been an epic ride. For many artists, meteoric success like hers usually comes with a freight-carload of personal angst. But Alanis is a decidedly different soul. Check her out in a candid conversation about living with superstardom and what special ingredient contributes to her healthy lifestyle.

CHU VALLEY REVEALED

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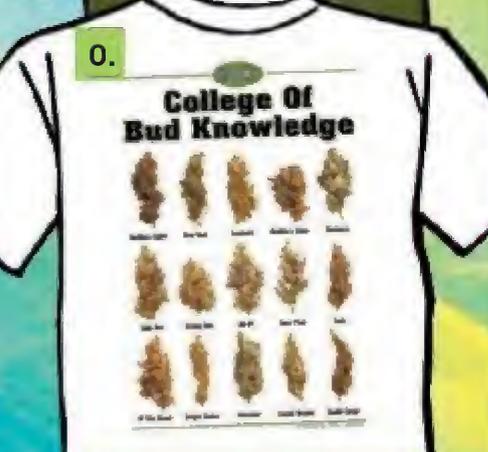
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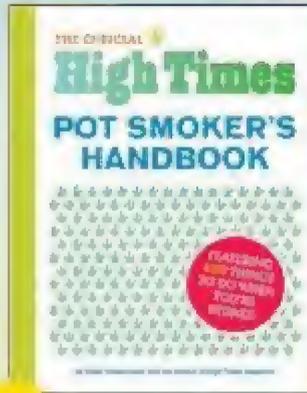
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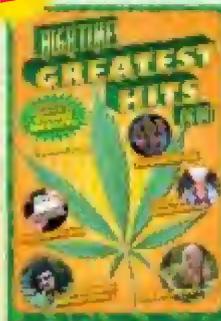
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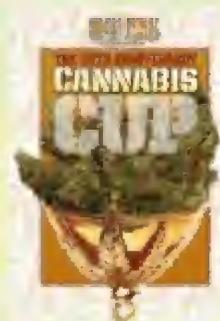
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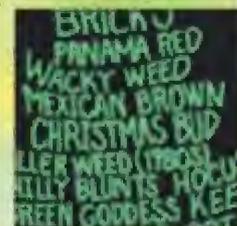
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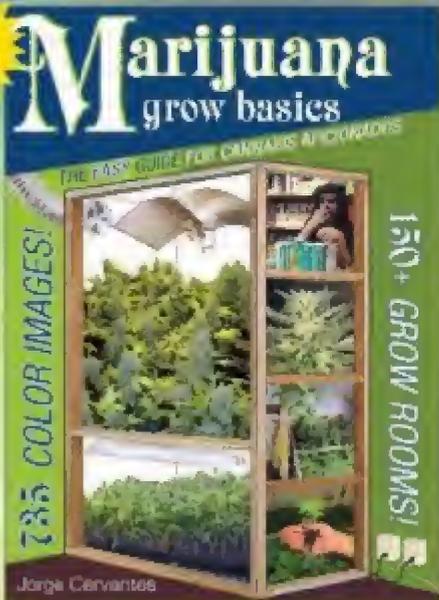
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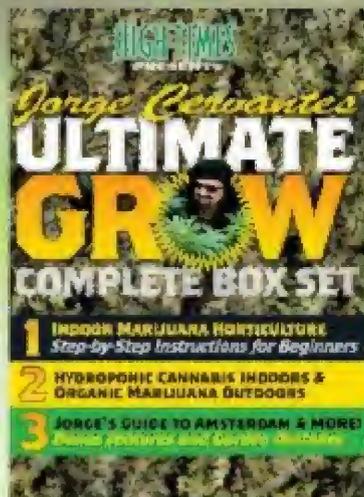
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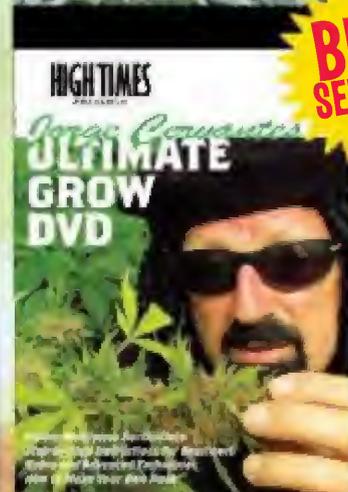
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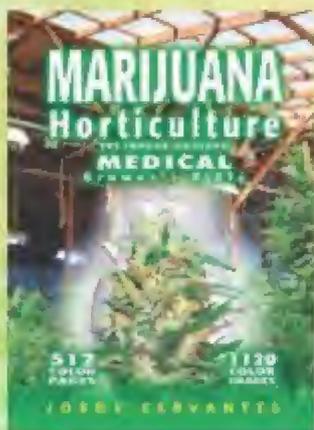
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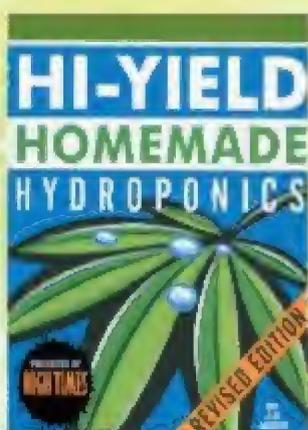
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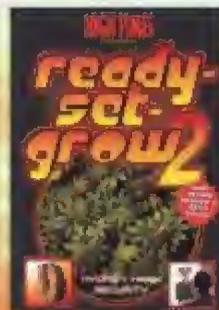
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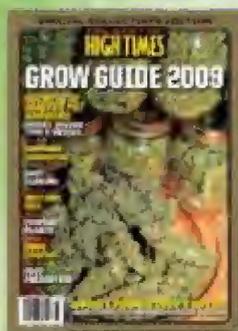
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16 I LOST MY ENTIRE CROP BY THE FLOOD ON 5/6/09 IN EAGLE, ARIZONA. NOT TO MENTION MY ENTIRE GROW ROOM:
33 VEGETATING PLANTS,
32 BUDDING LIGHTS, 00 BLUEBERRY, RIP, LITTLE BUDDIES... (MEM)

17 **Major Stoner says:**
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20 I LIKE MARIJUANA. YOU LIKE MARIJUANA TOO!!
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21 **SMOKED MYSELF SILLY**
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22 **Chef Vin Jov's MAGIC WEED COOKIES**

23 **WIFE SPANKING!**
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24 I ONLY TOKE ON DAYS ENDING WITH "Y"

25 **Blonder**
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26 **WITH BOOZE U LOSE! WITH DOPE THERE'S HOPE!**
Here's Denny!

27 YOU NEVER COPULATE ON THE FIRST DATE?
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28 **REV JOSHUA CASTANEDA, S.K.B. ELIJAH**
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29 **LEGALIZE FREEDOM**

30 I WANNA SEE YOUR IDEA IN THE TOP SPOT, NUMBER 1 ON THE POT 40 PAGE? SEND IN LOTS OF 'EM...

31 **THOR**
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32 STEPHEN KING DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE JUST HOW WEIRD THE WORLD REALLY IS !!!

33 MARIJUANA AND ME ARE GOOD BUDDIES. WE ARE DIFFERENT ON EACH OTHER.

34 **400,000 FOLKS DIE EVERY YEAR**
DUE TO DRUNK DRIVING... MAND IF I CRASH ON YOUR COUCH INSTEAD OF THE HIGHWAY

35 I FOKE SHOT AND I LIKE IT A LOT!

36 **can GOD make a rock so big not even He can lift it...**

37 **GEORGE CARLIN:**
"IT'S OK TO PRICK YOUR FINGER, BUT IT'S NOT OK TO FINGER YOUR FRICK!"

38 **WHAT TO YOU THINK SHOULD BE ON THE POT 40? FILL OUT THE BALLOTS AND MAIL TO US**

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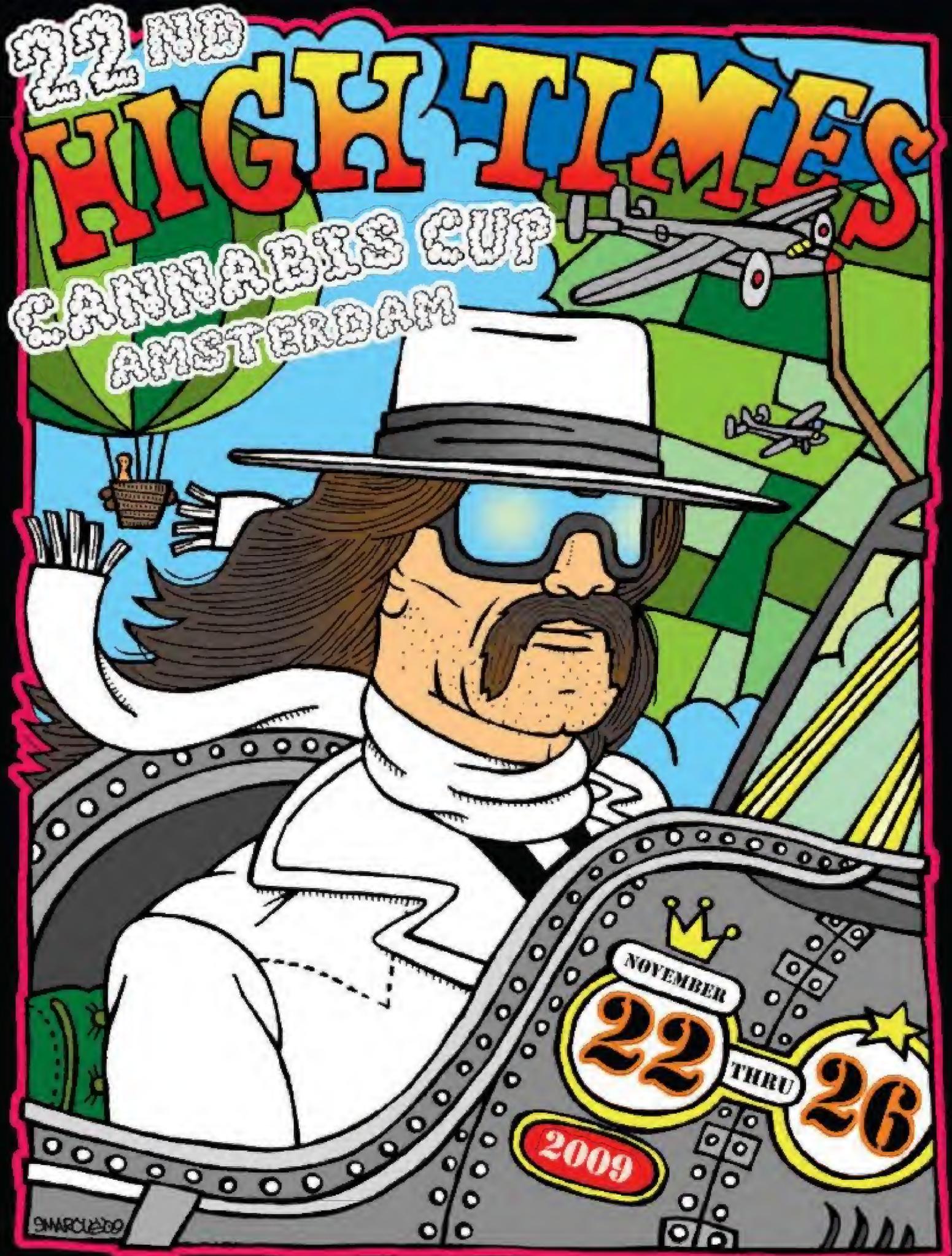
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